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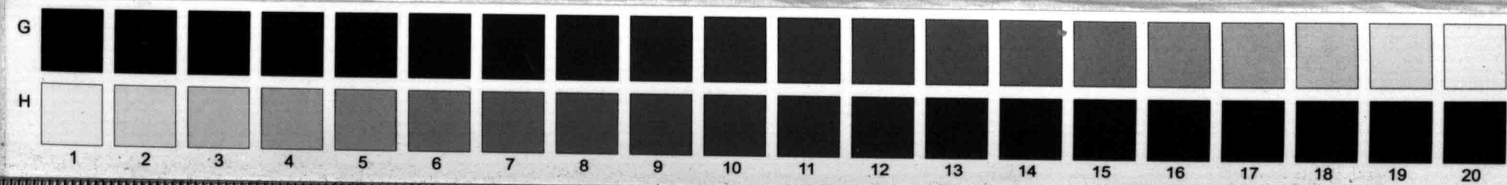
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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA JUNE 16, 1898.

THE CAUSE OF THE PLAGUE-
RIOTS.

The proud and imperial race, which governs India, can bear everything except defiance. When Field Marshal Gough approached the Sikh army at Mudki, a cannon-ball from the enemy's camp led him to open fire at once, though the time was inopportune, the troops having been tired by a long day's march. But the cannon-ball was a defiance, and it so perturbed his spirits that he could not wait a few moments to give his troops some rest. We can thus fully appreciate the ebullition of temper, betrayed by the Anglo-Indian papers at these frequent riots all over the country, a treatment to which they are so unused in India.

The rioters defy authority and assault Englishmen, and thus hurt them at their tenderest point. Naturally, they recommend drastic measures for the purpose of stamping out this spirit of resistance.

We have, however, appealed for lenient treatment, on behalf of those who are peaceful citizens by nature, but were led to lose their senses at a moment of panic. We have appealed to the rulers to take a generous view of the actions of these men who were acting, in a state of frenzy, under a sudden, though mistaken, sense of wrong.

Now, nobody can deny that the people of India are gentle, submissive and law-abiding, devoted to the joys of a domestic life. There are, however, *budmashes* here, and there,—habitual offenders, whom nothing pleases so much as anarchy and misrule. These men deserve no mercy; for, they are at the root of many of the riots that have occurred, and nothing but drastic measures would suit them. We shall try to explain how these usually gentle people of India were led to lose their senses and take the law into their own hands.

Describing the famine of 1770-71 in Bengal, Sir William Hunter observes that at that time all the social laws, which bound the people together, were rent asunder, that is to say, Brahmins ate the rice cooked by Sudras, higher classes intermarried with the lower, &c. &c. In the same manner, the plague and the rules framed to stamp it out, have unhinged the public mind. Social laws are more binding on the conscience of the Hindus than even the laws of the Government. Thus a Brahmin may be led to commit theft and thus bring upon himself an imprisonment for six months; but yet he would prefer a hundred deaths before he would agree to take the rice cooked by a Sudra. Thus the reason, which led the people to break the social laws (which are more binding on their conscience than the laws framed by the Government) during the time of famine, has also led them, at the present moment to break the laws of the Government. They were not habitual law-breakers of their social system. Indeed, the people regarded them more than they did their lives. Yet at a moment of a dire calamity, like the one in 1770-71, they broke them. In the same manner they are not habitual law-breakers now; but a dire calamity has led them to a state of frenzy, and to break the laws of the Government. In 1770-71, a dire calamity led the Brahmins to eat food cooked by Sudras; at the present moment, a dire calamity has led the people to commit riots.

The authorities take, and very naturally too, such serious offence at the conduct of the rioters, may, however, console themselves with the thought that, if the people had, here and there, taken the law into their own hands, they, the authorities, also did the same thing, that is to say, they too took the law into their own hands now and then. The Municipal Commissioners managed the affairs of Calcutta; but where are they now? Mr. Greer is the dictator of the city. What right has a plague officer or a police constable or a soldier to enter forcibly into the houses of private citizens? But they were permitted to do so under the authority of the Government in Bombay. What right has the police to fire on a riotous mob without authority? But their action is condoned at a moment of peril. Thus the populace are quits with the officials. If the riots have unhinged the minds of the people, they have also led the authorities occasionally to forget the majesty of the constitution.

It is a strange spectacle to see the peaceful Indians committing riots. It is similarly a strange spectacle to see the constitution-loving Englishmen deporting the Natu brothers. If it is repugnant to the instincts of the Indian to take up arms against constituted authorities, it is repugnant to the genius and instincts of the English nation to prosecute newspapers for sedition and to gag the press by a law. It is all due to the presence of a great danger. When it is gone, every one will regain the equilibrium of his mind. The people can very well pray for the forgiveness of their trespasses, as they are quite willing to forget the indiscretions of the servants of the Government.

If Lord Sandhurst were asked to explain how it was that he, being an Englishman and a Liberal, could deport men without a trial, of whose guilt he was necessarily not sure; or how he could post a punitive police force in a city, simply because a murder had

been committed there, when he knew that such an arrangement would punish the entire town for the guilt of one or two, or, say, half-a-dozen inhabitants; his Lordship would, no doubt, reply that he must be excused for actions done at a moment of panic. Murders of Europeans had been committed, and this so unsettled the minds of his advisers that he could not then view the matter with a judicial temper of mind. We think, every one will admit that the above excuse, put forth on behalf of Lord Sandhurst, is a valid one.

In the same manner, a rioter may claim that he is usually a law-abiding and honest citizen, but the appearance of the plague, and the belief in absurd rumours like that he would be killed by inoculation, took away his senses and made him desperate. Would the excuse be altogether unreasonable?

Now we don't say the above in any way to justify the rioters in the eyes of the authorities, but only to shew that these accidental riots should never lead the rulers to form any bad opinion of the populace of the country who have the reputation, and deservedly so, of being gentle and law-abiding.

A COW-RIOT AGAIN.

BOTH the Hindus and Mahomedans would be grieved to hear that cow-riots have not altogether disappeared from the land. The account of one which occurred in the district of Jessore, appeared in the Bengali organ of the Mussalmans—the *Sudhakar*. In this the writer has committed gross contempt of court. Of course, the writer, as an ignorant man, may not know that it is an offence to criticise a case which is *sub judice*; but the *Sudhakar* ought to know it. The translation of the account, which appears in another column, will show that the writer has not only committed gross contempt of court, but libelled a good many people. He says, the police went to investigate the case and reported it as false. "And why should not he say so?" Is he not a *pucca Hindu*?" says the writer. Says he again that "Lalit Babu is a man of turbulent character" by whose oppressions men have lost their lives and properties. And says he again: "The principal witness for the prosecution has disappeared because if he speaks the truth his house will be at once burnt to ashes by the Raja's people."

We hope, the *Sudhakar* will try to throw oil over troubled waters, and not permit his columns to be utilised for the purpose of inflaming the minds of the Mussalmans and the authorities against the Hindus. He should bear in mind that every case has two sides. On hearing of this riot case, we sent for information. We learnt on enquiry that Sankarpur is a village which is close to the Rajbati of Chanchra; that *quorbani* was done there, and this created ill-feeling between the Raja's people and some of the Mussalmans of Sankarpur who are all tenants of the said Raja. The Mussalmans have now brought a charge of criminal assault against Lalit Babu, the manager and a near relation of the family. The writer says that Lalit Babu is a *budmash* of the worst character. But that is certainly not the impression about him in the town. He is apparently a man of position and education; and nothing but exhaustive evidence will convince any one that he is the rascal he is represented to be. Thus he is not the likely man to embroil himself in such matters. Indeed, the cow-riots have given the Hindus such a lesson as to lead every respectable member of the community to stand aloof from them at all hazards. Anyhow it is evidence alone which can establish the fact whether any one was beaten and whether Lalit Babu had anything to do with the fact. The good Magistrate who has taken the matter into his hand, will undoubtedly be able to sift it to the bottom. We do not know who the police officer is who was deputed to make the enquiry. If it was Gopal Babu, the Inspector, the writer was very wrong in attacking so savagely a police officer of high probity. But it is useless to pursue the matter further, as the case is now in the hands of the Magistrate himself.

The writer says that the Mussalmans are killing cows for the last hundred years, on the precise spot where they did the *quorbani* on the present occasion. Now it would require a good deal of evidence to establish the fact that the powerful Hindu Raja, whose house is close to the spot and whose tenant every one in the village of Sankarpur is, permitted *quorbani* to be done under such circumstances. Of course, if the writer says that they were doing *quorbani* for the last hundred years, the version of the Hindus is that this was the first time it was done. This is a point upon which hinges the whole case. Is it a fact that *quorbani* has been permitted for the last hundred years, as say the Mussalmans; or is it a fact that this was the first time it was done, as say the Hindus? If the Rajas had allowed this to be done for the last hundred years, sufficient reason ought to be shewn by the prosecution to account for this sudden departure, especially as the Hindus have been taught by bitter experience how dangerous it is for them to meddle in such affairs. In these cow-riot cases, the Hindus have suffered terribly.

That there was *quorbani*, the writer admits. Our information is that there are two parties of Mussalmans, interested in the case,—one for peace and another for a fight. These latter refused to listen to the pacific counsels of their comrades and ran to the Magistrate to fall at his feet and cry for protection. The Magistrate, as he was

bound to do, directed a police enquiry, and now the case has assumed gigantic proportions. It must be borne in mind that if it is an offence to assault people as the Mussalmans allege, it is equally an offence for the Mussalmans to slaughter cows, so as to wound the religious feelings of the Hindus, as, the Hindus allege, was done on this occasion.

Now in the district of Jessore, the position of the Hindus is very unsafe. The Hindus are surrounded on all sides by Mussalmans, who are now practically the masters of the district. Most of them are honest and good citizens. But there are *Mollahs*, preachers and *budmashes* here and there, the chief business of whose lives consists in inflaming the minds of peaceful Mussalmans against the Hindus. It was some time ago that a Hindu Mahajan of Bankra had some altercation with a Mussalman who owed him a debt. The latter organised an expedition, and hundreds surrounded the Mahajan's house and committed all sorts of depredation. There was a great sensation on account of this outrage; and the Magistrate, to put down this spirit of lawlessness, sent several dozen to jail. We also received an account of another outrage, more horrible than the one just referred to, which occurred near Jhinkergacha. A *mela* was held during the last *dole* ceremony in that place, where the Raja's servant punished one of the sight-seers, a Mussalman, for having committed some offence. This servant's house was besieged at night by several hundreds of Mussalmans, and some horrible outrages were committed. This man did not venture to take protection of the court, but preferred to hide his disgrace. It is quite true that Hindus in the district of Jessore are more wealthy and better educated than the Mussalmans; but they are surely not the stronger party. This is a positive fact. Yet the Hindus enjoy security of property and person because of the kind protection which the British law-courts offer them.

We hope, the Magistrate will be pleased to see that a good understanding is established between the two parties. These cow-riot cases owe their life to racial feeling; and every Magistrate can, like the good Samaritan, throw oil over troubled waters, and secure peace and content. We hope the *Sudhakar* also will preach patience, forbearance and charity to his co-religionists. What is simply to be done is to do *quorbani* in a private place, so as not to attract the attention of the Hindus. If this is done, the Hindus will have no cause of offence. If a plague case now appears in that quarter, or if the Magistrate takes any action providing against plague, the Hindus and Mussalmans will immediately forget their differences and combine for mutual protection! That being the position of the two parties, it is suicidal of the Hindus and the Mussalmans to fight over such a foolish question as this.

DISADVANTAGES OF BUREAU-
CRATIC RULE.

ONE thing has been made plain,—the people here are very much influenced by rumours. The reason for this is, the rulers are not in touch with the people. The rulers have no way of explaining their motives to those over whom they hold sway. Sir J. Woodburn suddenly came across three hundred boatmen, stricken down by the inoculation scare. They respectfully surrounded the ruler, and His Honour explained to them the real situation. They went away, very much relieved of their anxiety. So, here is one way of explaining the motives of the Government by personal explanation. But the people have no personal acquaintance with their rulers.

The Governor is known by repute; the District Magistrate is seen only in his *kutchery*,—grim, stern and as immovable as destiny. Just now the Government feels the deep necessity of disabusing the minds of the people of some wrong impressions; but it vividly realises the position, namely, how far it is removed from the people, and what a deep gulf separates it from those whose destinies it has taken in its hand.

The Government can address the people through Minutes and Proclamations, and personal explanations. These, however, do not reach the masses. The terms of a Proclamation also do not carry conviction. Thus, for instance, the Royal Proclamation itself is differently understood by the ruled and the rulers. Indeed, considering all circumstances, it is simply impossible for the rulers to expel a well-established notion from the minds of the people by a mere Proclamation.

There is one lucky circumstance which must be mentioned here. The expansion of the Legislative Councils, and the privilege, granted to the members, of interpellating the Government, have brought the responsible rulers somewhat in touch with the people. This reform makes it possible for the Government to come in contact, however slight, with the people. Pity it is, the Council is not sitting now; for, in that case, the Government might have been interpellated, and it might have also addressed the people through their representatives. Yet we do not think that the expansion of the Councils and the sympathetic endeavours of the Governor himself, are sufficient for the purpose of putting the ruled and the rulers in a state of mutual confidence.

The position, noted above, thus holds good. The Government has now no means of explaining its motives to the people and of disabusing the minds of the latter of

a wrong impression. The Anglo-Indian papers might have done this service for the Empire; but their tone is hostile, and the people are loath to put confidence in their utterances. Besides, Anglo-Indian papers do not, even those most favoured by the Government, enjoy the absolute confidence of the authorities. The *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* are said to be the organs of the Government. But they are not so; they are only tools. They are supplied only with half-truths. They are considered almost as much outsiders as the native papers. Yet these Anglo-Indian papers can do a vast deal of good by adopting a far different policy from what they at present follow. They can, if they so choose it, really endear the Government to the people. The tone of a native paper is said to be seditious; but the Anglo-Indian papers can, if they so choose it, make the Indian papers their disciples. But the Anglo-Indian papers do nothing of the kind. They shew scanty respect for the feelings of the people; their utterances create wrong impressions in the minds of the people as to the character of the Government and the English nation. Indeed, their tone is exceedingly haughty; and as the people of India have some self-respect, being not a whit inferior to their critics, either morally or intellectually, the haughty tone of the Anglo-Indian papers, even when they offer sound counsels, does not produce any beneficial effect.

The only one way by which the Government could have addressed the people, was through the Indian papers. In the beginning, British statesmen knew this and patronised Indian newspapers. Nay, they not only patronised the native newspapers, but those Indians who took part in public questions. The Government has now deliberately discredited the Indian newspapers and the Indian political characters; and, therefore, it does not know how to let the people know that in regard to its plague policy it is only moved by the best of intentions. The various absurd rumours which took possession of the minds of the people, would have been very easily removed by the Indian papers, if they had any position with the Government. So, when they said that Government had no intention of killing the people by inoculation, they were not believed. We ourselves have come across hundreds of men whom we could not bring to a proper appreciation of the situation by all that we could tell them. When we told them all, they smiled incredulously.

There are, however, wrong impressions which the Government can remove easily. The Government must have perceived by this time that the impression prevails in the town that the true plague has not yet appeared. In short, the suspicion prevails that the cases which are styled plague-cases, are not really so. We think, the Government can easily remove this wrong impression by certain precautions. Indeed, we have already suggested some of these precautions, and they have been adopted to a certain extent. Unfortunately, the manner in which they are being carried out, has not succeeded in removing the impression, alluded to above, from the mind of the public.

REFERRING to the Samastipur shooting
case, the *Champion* says:—

If the facts mentioned are true in all main particulars,—and we do not think the editor of the *Sanjibani* would deliberately give currency to falsehoods,—it is high time that something were done to abate this racial danger. If the lives of Her Majesty's Indian subjects are not safe from outrage by those who should know better, and if the latter are to go scot-free and even to be admitted into society, we can not see what difference there is between a Turkish province and India.

The accused has not got off scot-free, but has been fined rupees eight hundred. As full particulars of the case have not yet reached our hands, we must postpone comments. Elsewhere will be found an article, reproduced from the *Hindu*, on this oft-repeated question of murder of natives by Europeans. Our contemporary suspects that the *Englishman's* article attacking this journal, was meant to stop the mouths of those who had been commenting on the Laing case. If that be the motive of the *Englishman*, his method has produced a contrary effect. For, it has brought the Laing case possibly more to the front.

THE *Jyoti* of Chittagong draws the serious attention of the authorities to the extremely distressed condition of the people in that district. It is said that scarcity of the worst type is raging, and that the sufferings of the people are simply indescribable. In a recent issue, the paper referred to two deaths from starvation; but the following, from a distinguished *kaviraj* of the place, under date the 5th, which appears in the number just to hand, is thrilling: A person, named Pitamber Dhoopi, lives in village Podua. He has to support a family, composed of six members. Since the severe storm of last November, the family has been nearly homeless, there being no protection against the sun and rain other than a thatch of straw and leaves. There was a storm the other day, and they were deprived of even this wretched thatch. For the last three days, they had no food to eat, and lived on the water of a tank. The sufferings becoming unbearable, his wife proposed to go to her father's house, taking with her the new-born baby. The husband would not agree, as he thought that would mean his humiliation in the eyes of his relations. The wife, however, insisted, and

his old mother joined her. Overwhelmed, as he was, by the burden of his calamity, this had the effect of depriving him of the sense he possessed. He took a shovel that was lying at hand, and gave severe blows with it to his wife, mother and daughter, killing all on the spot. The mad man then ran to the house of the chowkidar, gave the information, came back home, and inflicted several violent blows on his own head. Pitamber is now in custody.

THE plague has nearly died out in Poona, but her troubles are not yet over. Indeed, she stands face to face, to meet a difficulty which she does not know how to overcome—it is to meet a plague expenditure of five lacs of rupees! Well, in accordance with the views, expressed by the Government of India as to the respective liabilities of this Municipality and the State for the expenditure incurred for this purpose, the Government of Bombay some time ago directed the Accountant-General to actualise and apportion the amount. This work has just been completed; and the Poona Municipality has been declared liable for four lakhs of rupees as its legitimate share of the plague expenditure up to the 1st of June, 1898. To this has to be added another lakh, as the estimated expenditure from that date down to the time of the complete disappearance of the plague from Poona. Of course, the Poona Municipality does not hold in its hands any cash balance to be able to pay off five lakhs of rupees; and according to the decision of the Government of India as how to raise this money, the Collector of Poona has urged the Municipality to seek the market for a loan of five lakhs.

THERE have, of late, been several important reforms introduced in jail regulations in Assam under the administration of Mr. Cotton. Among others, the dietary scale has been improved, and the rules regarding extra-mural labour have been considerably softened. A correspondent, writing from Karinganji, informs that hitherto the barbarous custom prevailed, in the local jail, of employing prisoners in fields for doing the work of bullocks, which has been put a stop to by order of the Chief Commissioner. It is no wonder, then, that the prison death-rate during 1897 has decreased to 41.3 per mille.

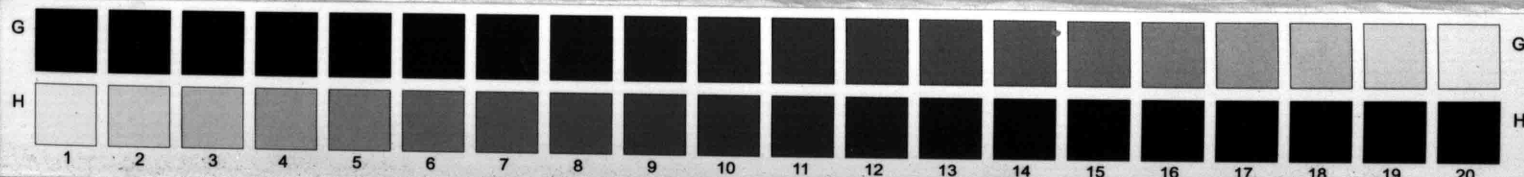
While on the subject of jail regulations, we draw the attention of the reader to the abolition of tread-mill and crank in British jails, details of which appear in another column.

MR. G. H. SOHONI, a pleader of Poona, who had been in that city when the plague was at its height, and had occasions to see plague patients among his neighbours, has sent his experiences about the disease. He says:—

The attack is sudden and unexpected. The patient at first feels as if he has got cold fever. He feels slight pain in the back and then gets a little headache, which is followed by vomiting. Then appears fever, with glandular swellings. It rises to 104 to 105 degrees within three hours, and sometimes the temperature becomes higher. If the attack is of a virulent type, the patient becomes delirious the next day. When the fever subsides a little, it is followed by death. Generally the patient remains unconscious when he passes away. In some cases, the patients struggle for five or six days, and then die. When a plague case occurs in a particular locality, the infection spreads like wild fire from house to house on both sides. If by chance any house escapes, it gets affected afterwards; but there is hardly any immunity. The best thing to do when a plague case occurs in one's vicinity, is to leave the house vacant and go to some other place at a distance or outside the town without the least possible delay.

If Lieutenant Hobson shewed heroism enough to startle the whole world, the generosity of Admiral Cervera has put the bravery of the Lieutenant to the shade, so say the papers. Indeed, we are told that the generosity of the Spanish Admiral has moved the entire American nation. The heroism of the Lieutenant, we can appreciate, but not the generosity of the Admiral. Eight men, including the Lieutenant, were passing in a small boat within the range of the guns of the Admiral. He could have easily shot these eight men dead, but he ceased fire and made them prisoners. By this arrangement the Admiral made a positive gain, inasmuch as it enabled him to liberate some of his countrymen, taken prisoners by the Americans. Is it the custom in the West to shoot down men who are so helpless as to be utterly at the mercy of their opponents? This would seem to be the case from the extravagant praise which the action of the Admiral has elicited from the Western world.

THERE is just now considerable flutter among the third-year students of the Calcutta Medical College, who have failed to pass the First Licentiate Examination for three consecutive years; for, the time has come for giving effect to one of the most stringent rules of the College, making such unsuccessful students liable to removal from it. We hear that there are some 50 students in whose cases this rule may be brought into operation. We hope, however, Dr. Bomford who is shortly going home on a long furlough, will treat their cases with as much indulgence as he did those of the unsuccessful students last year. Considering that all these students had taken their admission into the College before this rule was framed, they naturally expect special consideration at the hands of the College authorities.



Then, the examination, which is already very stiff, requiring a candidate to secure 50 per cent. marks for passing, was unusually stiff this year, though the Government Resolution, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 6th November, 1895, assured that such would not be the case, as the following extract from the resolution will show:

It has been decided to hold at the end of each session a test examination such as is held at other educational institutions. The standard fixed is so studiously moderate that no student of the most ordinary assiduity and ability need any risk of failing to gain promotion.

We also beg to point out to Dr. Bomford that this year many students have passed their third-year University Examination, and will, no doubt, make useful members of the profession, who stood the risk of removal last year, but who were excused. Such being the case, we hope Dr. Bomford will follow the same course this year too.

MR. MICHAEL DAVITT is doing yeoman's service in exposing the shortcomings of the present jail system in England in a series of articles to the *Daily Chronicle*, and urging several reforms. Sometime ago he interpellated the Secretary of State in the Home Department about the imprisonment of a Parsee gentleman in one of the London prisons. The man had been sentenced to four years' penal servitude by the Recorder of London in 1892. The term of his imprisonment was already over; but he had become insane in prison, and so, after the expiry of the terms, he was kept in a lunatic asylum. The Home Secretary said that he knew nothing of the case. But Mr. Davitt was not the man to be satisfied with this sort of reply. He pressed for more information and he hinted that the man had become insane because of his imprisonment. The Home Secretary has promised to give Mr. Davitt the desired information.

FROM a private letter received by mail the other day we learn that the London Indian Society will hold a Conference some time this month, when Messrs. Dadabhai Naoroji, R. C. Dutt and A. M. Bose are expected to speak on the Indian Currency, Sedition Law, Calcutta Municipal Bill and other matters affecting Indian interests. We learn from the same source that it is very possible that there will be a debate in the House of Commons on the new Sedition Law before the sitting of the Conference.

We shall enumerate what these precautions are:

(1) We are daily informed that there have been so many seizures. The general notion is that these cases are hunted out by the plague officers and dubbed as "plague." Now, strict instructions ought to be issued to the effect that no case should be styled as plague unless it has been pronounced as such by the medical members of the Vigilance Committee of the Ward. In short, when the plague officers discover a suspected case, let them not remove the patient of their own motion, but consult independent medical men also. In this way, when a patient is carried to the hospital, the public will have no ground to harbour the suspicion that other than plague patients are removed there.

(2) A circular, containing the special symptoms of the bubonic plague, should be extensively circulated in English as well as in vernacular. It is quite true, a circular of this kind was issued by the Chairman of the Corporation sometime ago; but, it was not as clearly worded as it ought to be. When a patient is sought to be taken to the hospital, and his friends find that the symptoms noted in the circular are present in him, they will be at once satisfied as to the real character of the disease and will thus not object to his being taken to the hospital.

(3) Full details of the suspected cases should be published, so that the general public may compare them with the recognised characteristics of the disease and be convinced that only real cases are being reported. This is absolutely necessary, as doubts have been thrown upon some of the cases, styled as plague.

(4) We are glad that a Committee of medical men have been appointed by the Corporation to examine the patients in the Manicktollah hospital. But, the better plan is to get these patients inspected and examined by the above Committee before they are taken to the hospital. For many are under the impression that, when a patient is carried to the hospital, he is so thoroughly changed for the worse through fright that it is difficult for any medical man to ascertain from what disease he is suffering.

As regards segregation, all prejudices against it will be removed if home-segregation on the native method were allowed. If this concession were made, all motive for the concealment of plague cases will be removed. Indeed, if the people were permitted to isolate patients in their houses in their own way, they will not only not conceal cases, but readily inform the medical experts, appointed by the Government, of the out-break of the disease in their family, and avail of their help.

The last issue of the *Tribune* has brought to light how a sentence of two months' rigorous imprisonment, passed on a Lambardar by the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon on a charge of "gross impertinence and insubordination and neglect of duty," has been set aside by the Sessions Judge. Here

are the particulars. The Deputy Commissioner was on tour in March last, when the Tehsildar of Palwal brought him information that Giasia, the Lambardar, had not given two carts for the conveyance of the articles of the Deputy Commissioner's tent as also those of the Tehsildar. This unruffled the mental equilibrium of the official. A chaprasi was forthwith sent to call in the Lambardar, but he would not come. When the chaprasi was sent a second time, the Lambardar could not be found. The matter was immediately reported to the Deputy Commissioner who had the Lambardar taken before him on arrest. The poor man trembled from head to foot in the presence of the official, and protested his innocence. But the Deputy Commissioner would not believe him, and was so fully convinced of his guilt that he sentenced Giasia to two months' rigorous imprisonment under section 44, Chaukidari Rules, Punjab Laws Act, on the above charge. On appeal against this decision to the Sessions Judge, the accused was discharged. The presiding Judge failed to discover wherein the offence of the accused lay, and the section under which he was to be tried! We quote the following from the judgment:

The District Magistrate does not in his order state what rule the accused has broken, justifying his punishment under Rule 44; and I have been unable to find any rule, requiring accused to supply a cart when called upon, for not doing which he has been punished. The procedure in the case has also been irregular. Summons should in the first instance have issued instead of warrant. Again, though the offence, punishable under Rule 44 of the Chaukidari Rules, is bailable, the warrant made no provision for accused's release on bail.

We hope, the ruler of the Punjab will take notice of the conduct of the official, in the interests of good administration.

THE Secretary of State has just sanctioned the creation of a special Sanitary Branch of the Home Office of the Government of India, consisting of six Assistants and one Superintendent, on pays varying from Rs. 50 to Rs. 400. The new posts will, it is proposed, be filled up by outsiders.

OWING to pressure of work, the Kashmir State wants an assistant to the Accountant-General. But, why a British officer? Is there really any lack of competent Indians for the post?

It is very satisfactory to learn that the Mussalmans at Lahore are already making preparations to assist in the Dusserah celebrations, following in the wake of the Hindus who assisted the Mussalmans during the Mohurrum. While on this subject, we learn that a most cordial relation just now subsists between Hindus and Mussalmans in the Nizam's State, and Hyderabad, the great Mussalman city, enjoy perfect inter-racial harmony.

WHILE moving the resolution for the Indian loan in London for ten millions sterling Lord George Hamilton dwelt on the healthy condition of the Indian finance. But this was an official picture of the situation. The *Staffs* thus voiced the common-sense view of the situation some time ago in these words: "If India cannot without a great strain rise the paltry sum of 20 millions sterling, and has to come begging for aid to the United Kingdom, what is to be thought of the financial administration of India or of the future prospects of the peninsula?"

REGARDING the riot at Multan during the last Mohurrum, a correspondent writes to say that this was all the work of the local bad-mashers and not to be attributed to any bad feeling between Hindus and Mussalmans of the place. He says: The riot appears to have originated with some low-class Mahomedans. The poor people among the Mahomedans are always ready to fight, because by rioting they can commit plunder and depredations; and it is on extraordinary occasions only, such as Dusserah or Mohurrum, that these men have a chance for satisfying their evil desires, because Hindus and Mussalmans come to blows very soon at such festivals.

AN American chemist and analyst of great repute who visited India some time ago, has found out, by actual experiment, that the water of the Ganges is entirely free from the germs and animalculae with which the other waters in any country in the world swarm. During his late visit to India, he went to Benares. There he found the sacred character, attached to the waters of the gigantic stream. Naturally being of an inquisitive turn of mind, he thought of finding out, if possible, the cause of the sacredness, accorded to the river. Accordingly he submitted a quantity of the water to analysis, and discovered the truth, above mentioned. On returning to his country, he has made his discovery known to the public through the press. He asserts that the water of the Ganges is not only pure itself, but possesses the power, as he found by actual experiment, of purifying other streams joining it.

THE Commissioners of the Patna Municipality will shortly meet to consider the respective qualifications of 169 candidates, who have applied for the post of the Municipal Secretary, and appoint one of them. But, in the meantime, Mr. Le Mesurier, the District Magistrate, has, we are told, addressed a circular to the Commissioners, telling them who is the "best" qualified, according to him, among the candidates. His nominee is, of course, a European, and his name is Mr. W. K. S. King. The object of Mr. Le Mesurier in taking the above step, is too plain. But we understand that his pronounced views in the matter have not proved convincing to many a Commissioner, and a tough fight over the appointment is expected.

THERE was a debate on the Tenancy Bill at Monday's meeting of the Madras Legislative Council. The Bill was referred to a Select Committee.

In their letter to Government on the currency proposals, the Bombay Chamber of Commerce give it as their opinion that gold can only, if at all, be introduced into circulation in India under conditions of the money market, which are ruinous to both foreign and internal commerce, and can only be retained in circulation so long as those conditions are maintained. It seems to the Chamber quite likely that a contraction of the trade will follow a contraction of the rupee currency, as the necessities of trade will compel the adoption of the currency to which the country is unaccustomed, and which, in the opinion of the Chamber, is unsuited to its requirements.

A QUEER story reaches us from Assam. Some time ago, a syce in the employ of the agent of certain tea-planters was taking his horse by the road in front of a Deputy Commissioner's bungalow. The road is a public one; but it is said that the Deputy Commissioner ordered his chaprasi to prevent certain kind of traffic by it. Of course, the syce was unaware of any such order; but, it was such a strict one that, although the Deputy Commissioner was out on tour at the time, his chaprasi caught hold of the horse, and it was tied before the cutchery. It so happened that the Sub-Inspector of Police is son-in-law of the above-mentioned agent; and when he came to know what occurred, he at once ordered the horse to let go. Accordingly, the syce was going away with the horse; but the chaprasi overtook him a little way off, seized it again and made it over to the pound. The whole thing was then represented to the officer in charge of the district; and when the Extra Assistant Commissioner inquired of the Sheristadar of the Criminal Court and the Municipal clerk if there was any such order of the Deputy Commissioner, as alleged by the chaprasi, they replied in the negative. The matter was accordingly kept pending till the return of the Deputy Commissioner from tour. The Deputy Commissioner returned a few days after; but it is now two months since the application was made on behalf of the syce, and curiously enough, the matter has not been settled as yet.

MR. CLIVE DURANT, who, along with two others, is being tried before the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Bombay on a charge of attempting to blackmail, seems determined to make himself famous by his extraordinary conduct in court. The reader is already aware how the other day he conducted himself impudently towards the Court, and was fined for contempt of Court. On Tuesday, again, while cross-examining a witness, he had the following conversation with the Magistrate:—

Durant—You are not quite a young man from the court, are you?

Witness—No, I am not.

Durant—But you are a smart young man of this country?

Witness—I don't know whether I should call myself a smart young man or not.

Durant—You are very far from being a pigeon of a gull.

The Magistrate—I won't allow you to put such questions to the witness and waste the time of the Court.

Durant—I ask your Worship not to address me in this high tone.

The Magistrate—I won't allow you to cross-examine the witness in this manner.

Durant—I request you to address me in a polite manner.

The Magistrate—I shall not take from you any instruction as to the method in which I should deal with this Court.

Durant—I am asking your Honour to listen to my application.

The Magistrate—You must make your applications in a proper and decent manner.

Now I order you to proceed with your cross-examination.

If Mr. Durant is the accused, he is a European.

THE appeal preferred to the Secretary of State by Mr. N. Swaminatha Aiyar, ex-Subordinate Judge of Elore, against his dismissal from service by the Madras Government on charges of corruption has been rejected.

A NUMBER of Mamunds, who visited Kabul the same time as the Afridi jirgas, have returned home even more chagrined than the Afridis. They say they had to sell the clothes off their back for food. This report is said to be true.

A WARRANT has been issued for the arrest of Pilot Simmonds, of the Rangon Service, on a charge of defaming Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas, Civil Surgeon, and Port Health Officer of Rangoon. The accused, it is alleged, cast reflections upon the manner in which the inspection of female passengers from Calcutta was conducted.—*M. Post.*

THE official explanation of the disturbances in Ferghana is a trifle far-fetched. The exciting effect of the Turkish victories over Greece upon the Moslem mind was at one time put forward as an all-sufficient explanation of the risings on the North-West frontier of India, but nobody now believes the explanation was adequate, though the mischief-makers doubtless made use of this as well as of other means to stir up fanatical feeling.

It is absurd to suppose that the victories of Turkey over Greece, which took place a year ago, would cause a rising in Central Asia now. There must have been local causes of discontent, which the fanatics have attempted to turn to their own purpose. One well-informed correspondent, who has something of an expert's knowledge of affairs in these regions, tells us that trouble with the natives in the Andijan district over smuggling on the Chinese frontier has been frequent of late years, and he thinks it probable that this is the ultimate explanation of the present riot.

The town of Andijan, by the way, is either already, or will be shortly, linked up with the extension of the Samarend Railway. It is notable as the city whence Baber started to invade India via Cabul.—*Pioneer.*

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If we sell one bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, we seldom fail to sell the same person more, when it is again needed. Indeed, it has become the family medicine of this town, for coughs and colds, and we recommend it because of its established merits.—JOS. E. HARNED, Prop., Oakland Pharmacy, Oakland, Md. Sold by *

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EARTHQUAKE.—A severe shock of earthquake was felt at Kalkina on Monday night, at half-past twelve o'clock, and lasted about fifteen seconds.

THE L. G. S. A. D. C.—Lieutenant N. D. Horsford, Norfolk Regiment, is appointed temporarily to be an Aide-de-Camp on the Personal Staff of the Lieutenant-Governor.

CYCLONIC STORM.—Day signal No. 5 (two cones, the upper one inverted) was hoisted at all the river stations on Tuesday morning to indicate the existence of a cyclonic storm of small extent in the Bay, which would probably reach and cross the coast of the Bay south of a line joining Chittagong and False Point.

OFFICIAL.—Mr. H. Wheeler is appointed to be Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments, with effect from the 1st July 1898 vice Mr. C. E. A. W. Oldham, but will continue to act, until further orders, as Under-Secretary to Government, in the General Revenue and Statistical Departments.

A PADREE AND THE PATHAN.—An Alaabad correspondent writes:—A few days ago a padree was preaching in the Chowk, and in the course of his speech he alluded to and defamed a Mahomedan paigamber. A Cabuli Pathan was amongst the crowd of listeners, and on hearing him defaming their paigamber, he was enraged, and said that he would kill him. The padree finding himself in danger and seeing that there was no other means to save himself, ran to the police station. The Pathan followed him, but they were separated by the police.

THE HIGH COURT.—The following is the disposition of the different Benches of the High Court which took effect from Monday:—Criminal business.—The Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Banerjee; Rajshahy group—Mr. Justice Prinsep and Mr. Justice Stevens; Mirdwa group—Mr. Justice O'Keefe and Mr. Justice Gupta; Presidency group—Mr. Justice Amir Ali and Mr. Justice Pratt; Patna group—Mr. Justice Rampini and Mr. Justice Henderson; Mr. Justice Jenkins and Mr. Justice P. O'Keefe will continue to sit on the Original Side.

PLAGUE OBSERVATION CAMPS.—The total number of persons examined and detained during the week ending the 29th May, 1898, at the respective camps of Chakradharpur, Chausa (down trains), Mairwa (down trains), and Khurda were as follows:—Number of persons examined during the week from Monday to Sunday 724, 538, 1,313, and 3,551; total 10,976; number of persons examined since the plague observation camp was opened 14,756, 20,305, 3,002, and 43,914; total 294,997; number of suspects detained during the week 68, 331, nil, and 18, total 417; number of suspects detained since the camp was opened 830, 4,424, 631, and 2,040, total 7,925; number of persons detained in camp during the week 229,331, nil, and 29, total 589. The were no deaths.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.—There was rain over almost the whole of the Province during the week. The present agricultural prospects are favourable. Ploughing and sowing are in progress, and the *aus* rice and jute already sown are doing well. More rain is required in some parts. Reports of the sugarcane and indigo crops continue satisfactory. The *china* and *mung* millets in Bihar are still being harvested, and the cotton crop in Orissa has begun to be gathered. Prices were generally stationary. Cattle-disease is still reported from Noakhali, Shahabad, Saran, Bhagalpur, Purnea, Cuttack, Lohardaga and Manbhum. The supply of fodder and water, is generally sufficient.

RIOTS AT RISRA.—The trial of the 18 Mahomedans charged with rioting at Risra, as reported before, was concluded on Monday after six days' hearing, before Rai Peary Mohan Banerji, Bahadur, who was specially deputed to Serampore for the purpose. Babu Mohendra Chandra Lahiri conducted the prosecution on behalf of Government. Of the 18 accused, one was discharged for want of evidence and the rest committed to the sessions. Charges of rioting with deadly weapons and refusing to disperse, although commanded by the Magistrate to do so, were drawn up against all the seventeen. Five of them were further charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Of the other accused four were also charged with assaulting the Police engaged in the suppression of the riot.

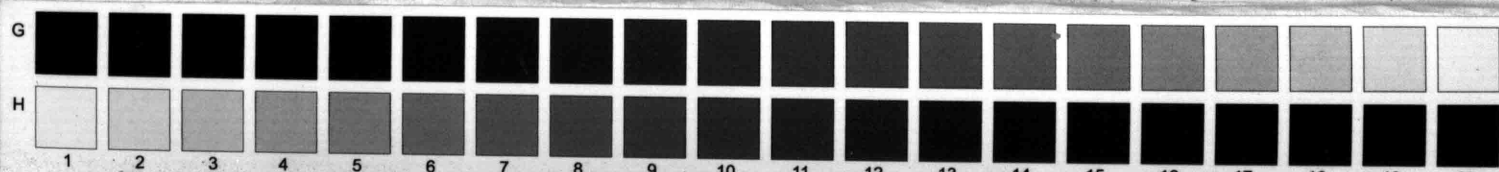
WEATHER REPORT.—A Simla telegram dated the 14th says: The latest weather report states that a fairly strong monsoon with heavy rain is blowing along the Bombay coast but in Gujarat and Kathiawar and in the north of the Arabian Sea conditions are irregular and suspicious. A shallow area of depression within which the barometer is largely below the normal, and winds are light from south and east, occupies this region, and a possible storm centre with heavy rain may develop there. The shallow storm, which lay over the north-west of the Bay yesterday, has not changed its position, but has become considerably deeper, with steep gradients. Strongish winds and a heavy rain storm will probably move north-north-westwards through Orissa into West Bengal and Behar, and will be followed by strong winds and heavy rain in Bengal. Elsewhere the most important feature in the weather is the extension of rain over the country, and heavy local falls which have occurred at different places. Katnaghi has had six inches of rain, Mussoorie, Vizagapatnam, and Karwar five inches each, Goa and Moulmein four and a half inches, and Cawnpore three and a half inches.

A CAPTURE.—The Detective Department recorded information that Babu Jodu Gopal Mukerjee, cashier and accountant of the Kuch Behar Estate, embezzled Rs. 9,000 and absconded. It transpired in course of police investigation that the man before leaving Kuch Behar, had despatched the sum to his father, Kahanai Mukerjee, in a registered cover and insured it as containing Rs. 200 only. Rai Jogendra Chander Mitter, Bahadur, called at the house of Kalam, in Mirzapore, who, on being questioned, at first denied all knowledge of it, but subsequently admitted having deposited the money in the name of a certain friend at the Agra Bank. Rai Jogendra Chander Mitter, Bahadur, arrested Kalam on charges of receiving and retaining and assisting in the disposal of stolen property. He will be sent to Kuch Behar for trial. The police also recovered the money.

A MINIATURE TIDAL WAVE.—Something like a tidal wave visited Negoimbo on Friday noon, with the result that a good part of the town lying between the residence of the Wesleyan Missionary, Mr. Triggs, and the village Kutidawa, was under water for a few hours. The sea commenced to rise about noon, and in about an hour's time the whole of Kutidawa, parts of the sea beach, esplanade and the seaside road (a favourite promenade of the upper ten) were submerged. Before 5 o'clock the waters began to subside, leaving depressions on the sea beach and esplanade converted into large pools. The poor inhabitants of Kutidawa are the sufferers; for the floors of their huts were completely under water, thus making them anything but habitable. The sea did not appear to be boisterous nor was there a very strong blowing prevailing at the time. The whole day was cloudy, and very little of old Sol was seen during the time.

THE BARPORE RIOT.—The further hearing of the case against fifteen villagers, who are charged with being members of an unlawful assembly, rioting and causing hurt to several officers of the Salt Department peons and police on the morning of the 27th May last at Chappahatti, near Barpore, was resumed Wednesday before Mr. E. E. Forrester, Joint-Magistrate of Aipore. Babu Hemendra Nath Mitter appeared for the Crown, and Babu Surendra Nath Mullick for the accused. Babu Hemendra Nath Mitter applied for a week's adjournment on the ground that the other witnesses for the prosecution were not forthcoming. The Judge granted the application. The case against the second batch of eighteen villagers who are charged with committing the same offences as the first batch and at the same place and time was then taken up. Two Sub-Inspectors of the Salt Department were examined, and they made the same statement as in the trial of the first batch. The case was adjourned.

PORCUPINE HUNTING.—"R. K. G." writes: There is nothing exciting in porcupine-hunting by Bengal villagers. Fox-hunting is a favourite game with Europeans; for, it shows great sport. But porcupine is not such an active animal, and this is why it fails to excite so much enthusiasm in the hunter. Dogs cannot be employed in porcupine-hunting; for none would approach a fearful porcupine for fear of its dreadful quills. You cannot shoot it; for, it lives many feet under ground. A pair is generally found in an expansive burrow, which opens in rather a narrow mouth. There they pass the whole day in sleep, and as the night approaches, they come out to prow after food, which chiefly consists of vegetables, and especially the bulbs of plants. These animals are killed, not so much for their meat as to prevent their depredations among edible roots of plants. Unlike other hunters, the porcupine hunters of Bengal do not carry with them any formidable weapons, but simply take some spades, shovels, two or three plant but long sticks, and a few stout trunks of plain tree. The hunters resort to such cornfields, and especially those where country "mahakach" is planted, which show signs of the ravages of this animal. They then look about for such big holes, at the entrance of which are to be seen foot-marks analogous to those of little children. When such a hole is found, a long stick is slowly passed into it, and a veteran shikari places his ear on the ground to hear whether there is any rattling sound or not. This rattling sound is produced by the porcupines through the bunch of dwarf but musical quills that they have attached to their tails. If any sound is heard, well and good. If not, the hunters immediately begin spading in the direction the hole has reached, the direction of the passage being ascertained with the help of the stick, which is a straight one. When all the earth is removed to the end of the hole, which generally extends to 9 or 10 feet going deep into the earth in a sloping manner to 4 or 5 feet, a bend is found. The plant stick is then brought into service and pushed through the newly discovered hole, this time the stick reaching to the length of about 6 or 7 feet. This passage is also laid bare in a similar manner and is found to have gone to the depth of about 6 or 7 feet. The bend that is found here is generally the last bend; so the hunters have to take particular care, in order that the porcupines may not escape. If the burrow is inhabited by porcupines, a rattling sound becomes clearly audible this time. The mouth of the new hole is covered up with earth, and by a small opening the stick is penetrated. By the side of the place where the end of the stick is supposed to reach, a miniature well is excavated, which has to be dug about 8 or 9 feet below the level of the ground. When the digger hears a rattling sound near his feet by the side of the well, he is carried up; and the earth, separating the well and the cave of the porcupines, is removed by long shovels from the top of the well. In an instant two porcupines come out, with their quills all erect through rage. A man at the same time begins to move the stick up and down through the hole so that they cannot again repair to their former abode. They at this stage try to escape by leaping over the well, but fortunately they are but indifferent jumpers. The hunters after playing with them for some time, thrust down the soft trunks of the plain trees on their body, thereby making the quills stick to the trunks without any hope of being taken out by themselves. The porcupines are thus carried up alive, and then they can be killed in any way the hunters think best.



GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

Babu Mohesh Chandra Sen, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Nadiya, is allowed leave for one month under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Atal Behary Bose, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, employed on Excise work, Cuttack, is allowed leave for one month and fifteen days under article 273 (4) of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Harbans Sahay, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Manbhum, on leave, is posted to Muzaffarpur.

Babu Jogendra Nath Gupta, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Muzaffarpur, is allowed furlough for one year, under article 371 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Kunja Bihari Goswami, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Cuttack, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr E P Growse, Magte and Coll, Cuttack, is allowed leave for two months and twenty-seven days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations. Mr H McPherson acting for him.

Mr Baroda Charan Mitra, Dist and Sessions Judge, Faridpur, is allowed leave for two months and eleven days, viz, one month and fifteen days, under articles 308 and 309 of the Civil Service Regulations, and the remaining period under article 306 (A) of the same Regulations. Babu Jages Chandra Mitter, Dist and Sessions Judge, Nadiya, acting for him.

Mr Alan McGavin, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Rajmahal, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Nandendra Chunder Sen, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, is posted to Rajmahal.

Babu Syama Kumar Mookerjee, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, is posted to Coimbatore.

Mr C. F. Manson, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Lohardaga, is allowed leave for two months and twenty-two days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Satis Chunder Sen, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Bogra, is transferred to Lohardaga.

Babu Khirode Chandra Sen, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Gaya, is transferred to Bogra.

Babu Tulsī Charan Pal, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, is posted to Gaya.

Babu Kālī Kāmār Mitra, Urdu and Hindi Translator to Government, is allowed leave for one month and fourteen days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations. Pandit Kanhya Lal Sastri acting for him.

Babu Braja Ballabhi Dutta, Professor in the Rajshahi College, is appointed to be a Professor in the Krishnagar College. Babu Gobinda Lal Sen, Professor, in the Krishnagar College, acting for him.

Babu Pramotho Nath Mukerjee, Professor, Rajshahi College, is allowed leave without allowances in extension of the leave granted to him.

Assistant Surgeon Hira Lal Dutta, supernumerary at the Medical College Hospital, is allowed leave for six months, under article 309 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Assistant Surgeon Upendra Narayan Roy, is appointed to the medical charge of the Jessoro Charitable Dispensary.

Assistant Surgeon Uma Chitran Roy, is appointed to the medical charge of the Charitable Dispensary at Chapra.

Assistant Surgeon Bussanta Kumar Sen, appointed to the Narail Subdivision and Dispensary.

Assistant Surgeon Jogneswar Mookerjee is appointed to do duty at the Presidency General Hospital.

Mr E. W. Ormond, Chief Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, is allowed special leave for six months, under article 348 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Radha Krishna Sen, Small Cause Court Judge, Sealdah, is appointed to be Sub-Judge, Hoogly, acting for him.

Babu Sub-Judge, Hoogly, acting for him.

Babu Priguna Prasanna Basu, Munsif of Noakhali, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge, Hoogly, during the absence of Babu Radha Krishna Sen who is allowed leave for one month, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Chandra Nath Ghosh, Munsif of Katwa, is allowed leave for ten days, under article 305 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Babu Pratap Chunder Mozumdar, Munsif of Munshiganj, is allowed leave for one month, under article 305 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Babu L. B. Bhatnagar, Munsif of Malda, is allowed leave for twenty-eight days, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Pran Krishna Biswas, Munsif of Begusarai in the district of Bhagalpur, is allowed leave for thirteen days, under article 372 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Military Assistant Surgeon W. Clarke is appointed to act as Assistant to the Surgeon-Superintendent, Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta.

Assistant Surgeon C. R. W. Bancroft is appointed to act as Medical Officer at the Sandhans.

Surgeon-Captain J. T. Calvert, on return from temporary military duty, is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Darbhanga, during the absence of Mr. deputation, of Surgeon-Captain C. R. M. Green, or until further orders.

The services of the undermentioned officers are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta: Captain W. A. Liddell, R. E. Second-Lieutenant W. F. Matthews, R. E. Second-Lieutenant J. Charteris, R. E.

In Peshawar, there was a resurgence of the plague on Friday evening, and considerable excitement prevailed. The fresh outbreak was apparently the result of the smouldering fires, and the results was that about a dozen shops were burnt down. The fire was eventually stopped, partly by water and partly by the fact that its further advance was blocked by a mass of buildings in which there was very little wood. The people of Peshawar have already begun to rebuild their houses on better principles than before corrugated iron being largely used.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

SIMLA, JUNE 12.
Sir Henry Prinsep has finished his special duty in connection with the Legislative Department, and left Simla on Saturday morning.

Lieutenant Colonel Debrath, Deputy Secretary in the Military Department, will shortly go on leave.

Colonel Tucker retires shortly. Inspector General of Police, Punjab, will enquire into the illicit traffic of arms with Colonel Hill. General Westmacot, Commanding Officer of Nagpur, gets Mhow Command and Col. Nicholson on leave. There are heavy rains and full outbreak of monsoon.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, JUNE 10.
It has been proved that the attack upon the Russian troops in Andijan was plotted by the Mahomedan priesthood, who were excited by the Turkish victories in Greece.

LONDON, JUNE 10.
Sir Charles Scott, British Minister at Copenhagen, has been appointed Ambassador at St. Petersburg in succession to Sir Nicholas O'Connor, transferred to the Porte.

LONDON, JUNE 10.
The Prince of Wales has been gazetted Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders.

LONDON, JUNE 10.
The Pekin correspondent of the Times telegraphs that Japan has demanded from China exclusive Japanese settlements in Foochow, Wopung, Shashi, Funing, Jochow and Chingwantao, also a payment of fifteen thousand pounds as damages for the destruction of Japanese property in the recent Shashi riots.

LONDON, JUNE 10.
Mr. Balfour, in the House of Commons to-day, said the Government would gladly seize a favourable opportunity to promote a cessation of hostilities between Spain and America, but unhappily there was no present prospect of such action being acceptable to both parties.

The censorship exercised in America has stopped everything regarding the expedition which left Tampa this week, and the present whereabouts of the expedition is unknown. It is believed that the recent despatches exaggerated the dimensions of the expedition for the purpose of misleading the Spaniards.

Meanwhile, it is known that American warships have seized and occupied the outer harbour of Guantanamo, eastward of Santiago du Cuba.

LONDON, JUNE 11.
In the House of Commons, last night, replying to an exhaustive criticism by Sir Charles Dilke on the foreign policy of the Government, Mr. Curzon reviewed the whole subject, and in the course of his speech, said that relations with America were most friendly. The West African difficulties, with France were in the course of a pacific solution, and the new concession from China had secured Hongkong. This and other advantages had been obtained from China, without jeopardizing friendly relations with the other Powers, or sacrificing honour.

Sir Charles Dike, Mr. Asquith, and Sir William Harcourt, severely criticised the speech made by Mr. Chamberlain at Birmingham last month. Mr. Chamberlain, in reply, said that it was absurd to make a Cabinet responsible for every word or act of expression on the part of a single member of the Ministry. He denied that there was any difference of opinion between himself and Lord Salisbury, and refused to withdraw a word of his Birmingham speech.

A motion to reject the Foreign Office vote was negatived by 254 votes against 128.

LONDON, JUNE 11.
A meeting has been held in support of the fund to make a provision for native Indian soldiers disabled in British service. Lord Roberts, presiding, in the course of the meeting, the Duke of Cambridge, Lord George Hamilton, the Marquis of Lansdowne paid tributes of praise to the native troops.

LONDON, JUNE 11.
An American troopship has landed hundred Marines at Chinameria, several warships first sheeling and driving on the Spaniards from the earthworks.

LONDON, JUNE 11.
It is reported from New York that the Philippine insurgents today opened a determined attack upon Manila and have already captured the town of Manila. Admiral Dewey's squadron is not participating in the attack, but is watching events to prevent a massacre.

LONDON, JUNE 11.
An agreement between the Niger question has been finally concluded and now only awaits the signature of Britain and France.

LONDON, JUNE 12.
There is a serious ferment amongst the miners on strike in South Wales, and too many of the Carabearers and too of the Worcestershire Regiment have been hastily despatched to prevent order.

LONDON, JUNE 12.
Nine cases of yellow fever have appeared at Mchenry at the mouth of the Mississippi and grave fears have arisen of the disease spreading among the troops collected in the Southern States.

ADEN, JUNE 13.
The P. and C. steamer Carthage, with the English mails, left the 4th instant, left here for Bombay at 11 this morning.

LONDON, JUNE 13.
The report of the surrender of Manila proves to be untrue.

LONDON, JUNE 13.
It is officially announced at Washington that the expedition has left Key West for Cuba.

LONDON, JUNE 13.
The papers accept the Niger Convention between Great Britain and France as a fair compromise of the question.

LONDON, JUNE 13.
In the House of Commons to-day, Lord Lansdowne, replying to Lord Carrington, said

that the Government had decided to re-instate on half-pay on the Unattached List of the Army all the officers who were engaged in the Jamieson raid, with the exception of Sir John Willoughby and Colonel Rhodes.

LONDON, JUNE 12.
Three American men-of-war remain in the harbour of Guantanamo to protect the marines who have been landed. Admiral Sampson has thus secured the port as a base for his supplies.

LONDON, JUNE 12.
It is believed that owing to the rumour of Spanish warships being about, all the American transports have returned to Tampa. The men are said to have been overcrowded on the transports, and suffered terribly from heat. Many horses died on board. The latest reports state that the transports re-sailed from Tampa on Saturday.

LONDON, JUNE 13.
An amendment moved in the House of Commons by Sir J. Pease on the Finance Bill to reduce the tea duty instead of the duty on tobacco has been rejected by 239 to 103 votes.

LONDON, JUNE 13.
The death is announced of Mr. Mathew Fowler, Liberal member for Durham City.

LONDON, JUNE 13.
In the attack upon the American troops at Guantanamo, the loss on the American side was only five. The Spanish losses are unknown. Further reinforcements, with a cannon, have been landed there.

LONDON, JUNE 14.
The concentration of the German men-of-war at Manila is exciting attention in Europe and America, for four warships are now there, and when the troopship Darmstadt, which has been ordered thither, arrives at her destination, the German force will number three thousand men. There are rumours of German designs upon the Sulu Islands.

LONDON, JUNE 14.
Lord Wolsey has issued an order that upon the perusal of the papers relating to the recall of the Royal Irish Regiment from the front during the late Indian frontier campaign, he is satisfied that grave injustice was done to the regiment.

LONDON, JUNE 14.
In the House of Commons last night Mr. Brodrick announced that the Victoria Cross would henceforth carry an annual pension of £50 for incapacitated soldiers, at the discretion of the Secretary of State for War.

LONDON, JUNE 14.
Leiter's great wheat corner in Chicago has collapsed, and ten millions bushels of wheat have been suddenly thrown on the market, causing a heavy decline in prices.

LONDON, JUNE 14.
A debate took place to-day in the new French Chamber of Deputies on the general policy of the Government, when the latter were first defeated by a majority of fifty votes, but subsequently a general resolution of confidence was adopted by 284 against 272 votes. Nevertheless it is believed that the cabinet will resign.

LONDON, JUNE 14.
There was a sharp decline, amounting to almost a panic, on the Liverpool wheat market to-day owing to the collapse of the great wheat corner in Chicago.

LONDON, JUNE 14.
The Ascot Stakes, which were run for to-day, resulted as follows:—Hermionius, 1; Piety, 2; Rapallo, 3.

THE cholera outbreak in Manipur is reported to be abating. The troops continue to enjoy a virtual immunity.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Viceroy's Executive Council was held on Monday afternoon for the discussion of frontier affairs.

THE Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Arundel succeeds the late Mr. Grose as a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Madras; the Hon'ble Mr. Stokes becomes Chief Secretary, and the Hon'ble Mr. Forbes, Revenue Secretary.

It is a true fact that the bad effects of a war are not confined to the parties concerned. Now America and Spain are grappling with each other; but Japan has to suffer on that account as America is the best purchaser of her goods.

THE Bribery Commission in the Punjab has concluded its enquiry. The defence called no witnesses; but, on behalf of the defence put in a lengthy reply, answering each charge individually. He claimed that Sirdar Gurdial Singh had not been proved guilty of any charge. The Commissioners have gone to Simla to prepare their report to Government.

In connection with the disturbance at Bandora, which resulted in the death of Mr. Cowaslaw Dhunjishaw, Foudar, nine Mahomedans, who are alleged to have taken part in the riot, have been removed to Thana, where they have been detained in the special prison as under-trial prisoners. The police are making enquiries in Bombay for others who have made themselves scarce; and the trial will probably be commenced before Mr. Sheppard, the First Class Magistrate at Bandora, in the course of a week.

GUNNER DAVIES of the Royal Artillery, Roorkee, was charged on Friday before Mr. Holmes, C. S. Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Roorkee, with grossly insulting and criminally intimidating Mrs. Rogers, wife of the Collector of Azamgarh, and Mrs. Grant, wife of an Assistant Engineer, while travelling in a first-class compartment on the Oudh and Rohilkand Railway between Saharanpur and Lakhsar. The defence was conducted by Mr. B. R. Bomanji, barrister-at-law, who claimed the right, on behalf of the accused of being tried by a jury—the accused being a European British subject. The accused has been committed to the Sessions of Saharanpur.

DURING the summer of 1894, Mr. Chas. P. Johnson, a well-known attorney of Louisville, Ky., had a very severe attack of summer complaint. Quite a number of different remedies were tried, but failed to afford any relief. A friend who knew what was needed procured him a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which quickly cured him and he thinks, saved his life. He says that there has not been a day since that time that he has not had this remedy in his household. He speaks of it in the highest praise and is much pleased to recommend it whenever opportunity is offered. For sale by

THE PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

FRIDAY'S RETURNS.

The Municipal returns show that there were three seizures, two in Ward No. 8 and one in Ward No. 13; and two deaths, one in Ward No. 8 and one in Ward 19, on Friday. The totals to date are 100 seizures and 72 deaths.

SATURDAY'S CASES.

Four fresh cases were reported on Saturday, one from the Medical College Hospital, the patient named Babun having been taken to hospital from a house in Tirretta Bazaar, Ward No. 8; the second was from the same Ward, the patient, a Hindoo, having been removed to the Manicktollah hospital from a house in Blackbun's Lane; the third was from a house in Newgyppokur Lane, the patient, a Hindoo, being removed to the Manicktollah hospital by his son, who reported the matter to the Health Office; the fourth was a case which occurred at 8, Esplanade, East. There were in all three deaths on Saturday. One a Syce in the employ of Messrs. Mackintosh Burn & Co, who died in a godown on the premises of the firm and the other two died at the Medical College, one being Jhoorun, who was admitted into the hospital on the 8th, and the other, Matabudda, who was admitted on the 9th instant.

The official returns for Saturday show that there were four seizures—two in Ward No. 8, one in Ward No. 12 and one in Ward No. 14—and three deaths—one in Ward No. 8 and two in Ward No. 12, the totals to date being 104 seizures and 77 deaths.

SUNDAY'S RETURNS.

The official returns for Sunday show that there were two seizures—one in Ward No. 7 and one in Ward No. 13, and four deaths—two in Ward No. 8, one in Ward No. 13 and one in Ward No. 14, the totals to date being 106 cases and 81 deaths.

MONDAY'S RETURNS.

After 7 P. M. of Monday there were one seizure and one death, bringing the totals to 108 seizures and 84 deaths. The total number of deaths on that day was 36, against 59, the average of previous five years.

THERE was only one case reported till 7 P. M. Monday from 6, Municipal Office Street. The patient was removed to the Manicktollah Hospital. There were two deaths among the old cases, one at the Campbell Hospital, and the other at the Medical College Hospital.

TUESDAY'S RETURNS.

Tuesday there were two seizures, one in Jorabagan and another in Kapalitola Lane, and two deaths. The patient removed from Jorabagan died in the Mayo Hospital, and another patient in the same hospital admitted on the 8th instant died yesterday.

A REMOVAL FROM PHEAR'S LANE.

A suspected case was removed from Phear's Lane on Saturday under circumstances worth mentioning. Sheikh Nikram, a peon attached to the Calcutta Court of Small Causes and living in Phear's Lane, took ill with fever. Some body informed the Health Department and Dr. Stevens called at the house on Friday night, and saw the patient. Early the following morning, the brother of the patient called Dr. Chuckerburty, a practitioner of some repute in the neighbourhood who carefully examined the patient, but could detect no swelling at all. He accordingly gave a certificate to that effect. An hour after Dr. Stevens came with the ambulance and had the patient put in van, in fact strapped down against his wishes. The brother naturally appealed against what he considered a *salutem* and said that only an hour before a doctor had pronounced the case of simple fever. Dr. Stevens wanted to know who the doctor was, and asked the brother to fetch him. Dr. Chuckerburty responded to the invitation and informed Dr. Stevens that he had examined the patient but could detect no swelling of any kind. In his opinion the patient was not suffering from plague but from malarial fever with brain complications. He then invited Dr. Stevens to make an examination for himself. Upon this Dr. Stevens took up the curtain, and carefully examined the groins by embedding his fingers. "There," said the dissenting doctor, "the patient does not feel the least pain, for he does not even wince." But Dr. Stevens thought that the man was in a comatose state, and forthwith ordered his removal to the Manicktollah Hospital. The effect of this has been the cause of much uneasiness in the minds of the Small Cause Court peons.

ASSAULT ON A SUSPECTED PLAGUE SPY.

Before Nawab Syed Ameer Hosein on Saturday a servant of Rajkisto Dutt, living at 13 Tarak Chatterjee's Lane, was charged with causing grievous hurt to a beggar woman at those premises. The woman called at the house on Friday to beg for alms, as was her weekly custom. The servant abused her and told her to leave the premises, as he considered her to be a plague spy, in the service of the Health Office. As she continued to be importunate and would not leave the house, he seized a stick, attacked her and fractured her right arm, necessitating her removal to hospital. The accused was sentenced to two months rigorous imprisonment.

PLAGUE COMMUNICATIONS.

At the meeting of the General Committee of the Corporation, held last Friday, at the Municipal Office, a resolution was passed to the effect that all anonymous communications in connection with plague cases be sent to the Vigilance Committee of the Ward for inquiry and report before any action is taken upon them. The same process was to be observed where letters were signed, but no address given, also that before a suspected plague patient was removed to hospital, information should be sent to the Vigilance Committee of the Ward. This ought to in future stop false reports being sent to the Health Office by vindictive persons to give useless troubles and annoyance to the inmates of a house, owing to a grudge against one of its members.

CONSERVANCY.

A resolution was passed at Friday's meeting of the General Committee of the Corporation that the Conservancy Department should revert to the Health Office.

PLAGUE HOSPITAL IN ITALY.

A plague hospital has been opened in No. 26, South Road, Entally, for the accommodation of all classes and creeds of the locality to meet any emergency.

FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

From the vital statistics recorded in the Health Office, it appears that the death-rate of the town is increasing gradually. The average number of deaths in last week was 36. The number rose to 46 on Saturday and 55 on Sunday. The average of previous five years is 50.

BOATMEN FROM CHITTAGONG.

Owing to the boatmen's strike causing a considerable hindrance to their work, Messrs. Ralli Bros. hit upon the plan of bringing boatmen from Chittagong to take the places of those who have struck work. Accordingly on Monday morning, 150 men arrived by train from Chittagong, and were escorted to the boats. As it was expected that those on strike would interfere with and assault the new comers, the firm obtained from the Commissioner of Police special protection for them all along the line of route from Sealdah to the Kidderpore Docks, where Messrs. Ralli Bros' boats are lying. The Commissioner gave instructions to all the local thanas by which the men were to pass, to see that they were not molested or interfered with in any way. The river police also received similar instructions to prevent any interference with them while at work in their boats. The men, on arrival, were safely conducted to their respective boats on which they were appointed to work.

THE PLAGUE

SINCE the commencement of the recrudescence of plague in Karachi, there have been 2,850 cases and 2,245 deaths up to date.

All the records, accounts and the duty of dealing with plague in Bombay were from I. L. transferred on Friday from the Plague Committee to the Corporation.

The landing place of the Ganges Steam Despatch Service at Chausa has been selected to be a place of inspection for all passengers travelling by steamer up or down the Ganges from Plague infected areas.

The Durbar Physician of Travancore wanted to depute a Medical Officer to learn all about the plague at first hand, but the Government have not been convinced of the wisdom of this course.

DR. THOMAS, Port Health Officer, Rangoon, on Friday, filed a case of defamation against Pilot Simmons, who published libellous accounts of plague, defecation and inspection on board the Kassara, on the 5th ultimo.

THE Keamari detention camp riot case was disposed of on Friday. Of the 11 accused against whom charges were framed, one was sentenced to four months, three to six weeks, and seven to one month's rigorous imprisonment each.

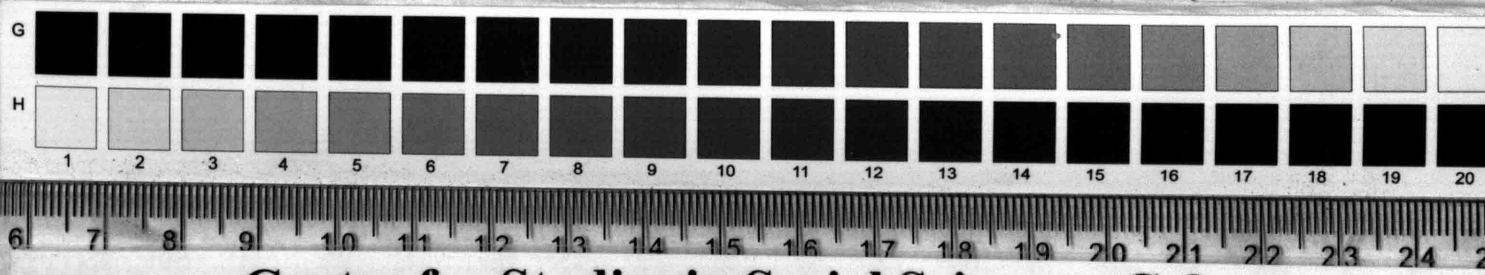
THE Bombay Corporation has voted a sum of Rs. 12000 for the purpose of giving a fair trial to Professor Lustig's curative serum for plague. Both the Chief Executive Health Officer and Khan Bahadur Dr. Choskey have formed a good opinion as to the efficacy of the serum.

OUR Madras correspondent writes that five men in the Palong Thana have been sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment each for falsely representing themselves before the people as plague inoculators, sent by Government, and trying to cheat them of their money by holding out promises of immunity from inoculation.

THE plague is fast decreasing. There were only two attacks and four deaths in Bombay on Monday. In Karachi, there were sixteen cases and thirteen deaths on Sunday, and nine cases and nine deaths on Monday. In the Punjab, in Jullundar and Hoshiarpore, there were no fresh cases and no deaths on the 7th and 8th, and four more villages have been declared to be free from plague.

SAYS THE *Benque*: A statement appears in the newspapers to the effect that Government intended to appoint Inspectors for the purpose of house-to-house inspection. This announcement added to the panic and caused a fresh exodus. We made enquiries from such sources as are available to us, and learnt that the local authorities here, who are responsible for the administration of plague measures, know nothing of any such intention, and if there was any such intention on the part of the Government, they would certainly have been informed of it.

CONSIDERABLE excitement prevailed among the Natives of India and a Burmese population of Rangoon (the Chinese took things quietly) last month, owing to the plague panic in Calcutta. Servants of Europeans told their masters that they heard that the plague inoculators were at work, and wholesale deaths had immediately resulted from the prick of the needle used. The needles were described as of three kinds—No. 16, No. 18, and No. 20. The No. 16 needle was for Europeans, who became invulnerable to plague after operation; No. 18 was for use in bad cases of plague, when recovery would be doubtful; and No. 20, for natives only which was said to be fatal, death being instantaneous. One rumour described how a European doctor, escorted by two British soldiers, had gone to the Eastern suburb of the town, inoculated a native family, with fatal results, and were thrashed back to cantonments by a mob; and another rumour described twelve European doctors going into the Western suburb and inoculating 500 coolies, of whom only 25 escaped with their lives. It so happened that the virus for plague inoculation had not reached Rangoon; and there were other rumours which may have had some foundation on fact, to the effect that certain badmashes had attempted to levy blackmail from the servants by pretending to be plague inoculators, willing to use No. 16 needle for a consideration. But how far this is true is unknown. The Deputy Commissioner issued notices broadcast throughout Rangoon, and the people, accosting him in the streets, to the effect that inoculation would be optional if the plague should appear in the town but there would be no inoculation until then. One Mahomedan durwan has been arrested on a charge of publishing some grossly false reports; and his trial is to take place shortly. Meanwhile the excitement has subsided, alarming rumours have all been exploded, and everything now seems as quiet as usual to the on-looker.



India and England.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, MAY 29.

INDIAN CURRENCY COMMITTEE.

A STUDY of the contents of the Secretary of State's reply to the remonstrance of the leading Bankers, expressing dissatisfaction with the composition of the New Indian Currency Committee, as well as with the terms of reference, which must have appeared in your columns before this reaches you, is a very significant manifestation of the deep-rooted distrust which prevails in all high financial circles with regard to the financial and currency proposals of the Indian Government. I have already given you full details of the qualifications of the *personnel* of the Committee, and expressed my opinion that, although, on the whole, it is as satisfactory a composition as one could expect, it is, without doubt, weak in exactly the spot touched by the Bankers' memorial—viz., the representation of practical experience in Indian production and trade, and especially in that further direction not reached by the Bankers' memorial, the production and trade which is carried by native bankers, merchants and manufacturers to whom currency questions are far more vital than they can ever be to London bankers and merchants, interested more in the trade between Britain and India than in the internal distribution and consumption of commodities. Lord George Hamilton's letter appears almost to admit the weak spot, and shrink under the touch of the Bankers' memorial. He tells them that he relies on the witnesses to supply this expert knowledge of special branches of commerce on which the bankers justly lay such stress; but if there is one question under the sun in which the foundations of evidence are as shifting as the sand banks of the Hooghly, it is the question of Indian currency, and this makes *practical experience* the most valuable of all qualifications in the *personnel* of the Committee. A careful study of the text of the Secretary of State's reply indicates a very wide latitude as permissible, and indeed encouraged, with regard to the scope of the Committee's enquiry. But all that must inevitably depend upon the initiative of the Committee itself for which initiative it is a truism to say that expert knowledge is the only qualification. However, after all, the great advantage of the Committee's appointment is not so much what they will eventually report, as the delay which it interposes between the formal proposals of the Indian Government and the final decision upon them by the India Office. If ever there was a political question whose first necessity was cautious deliberation, it is that of the Indian currency, whose intricacies and difficulties are only to be likened in magnitude, to the tremendous consequences involved. I hope, the Congress authorities will not overlook this, but will endeavour to supply native expert witnesses.

A MINISTERIAL TRICK.

Lord George Hamilton is making an attempt to quash the usual discussions which take place on the debate of the Indian Budget in the House of Commons. On Tuesday, June 7th, he will introduce an Indian Loan Bill to provide for the redemption of certain debentures soon falling due, and he proposes to make his financial statement in moving the resolution necessary to set up that Bill. By this process, for which he claims the precedent of 1877, he will squeeze out all the usual "grivance" motions, usually brought forward, and by the forms of the House, members will be compelled to discuss nothing but the finances of the year. Even the currency proposals will be barred, by the remission of that question to the Committee. As, apart from currency, the Budget presents little ground for discussion, ground rendered more barren still by the extraordinary delay of the report of the Expenditure Committee, the Government hope that members will be tempted to remain in the country for a few extra days' holiday, rather than come up to take part in or listen to such a humdrum and emasculated debate as the Budget must inevitably prove under such circumstances. This sort of small trickery never succeeds with the House of Commons; and, I trust, one result may be to stiffen the Opposition leaders to support Mr. Herbert Roberts in his notice of motion, calling attention to the amendments in the law relating to Seditious and Defamatory papers concerning which were published yesterday, according to promise.

AN INDIAN BLUE-BOOK.

I send you a copy of this precious Blue-Book, the contents of which do not in any way tend to soothe the apprehensions entertained by men of Liberal views with regard to the panic legislation of the present year. There is no need for me to comment upon this. I leave you to do that for yourself. I may, however, say first of all, that it has been far too long delayed. The explicit undertaking that these papers should be forthcoming, was given by Lord George Hamilton to Mr. Roberts in the debate on the Address last February; and, indeed, the promise of these papers—which we were led to understand, would include the full details of the Legislative Council—enabled Lord George Hamilton to wriggle out of a very uncomfortable position into which Mr. Herbert Roberts' amendment had placed him for the time being. The correspondence which the Blue-Book contains is, of course, valuable and interesting, as showing the circumstances under which the changes in the law have been made and the temper which inspired them. But what the British public, members of Parliament and Editors of newspapers chiefly required, was the full text of the proceedings in the Legislative Council under which the decisions were arrived at, and especially any minutes of dissent which were made by any members of the Council. It is absurd to say that all these have appeared in the *Gazette of India*. I doubt if 20 copies of that publication could be found in the whole country. Lord George Hamilton by his long delay,—publishing them on the edge of the holidays, so that members are only able to read and consider the question by the time Parliament meets again—practically to close the business of the session—has done his best to burk discussion altogether regarding two Acts which have aroused public indignation in India beyond any other Act of the Government for 20 or 30 years past, and which menace the growing liberties of the Indian people. Whether Mr. Roberts will be able to

force an opportunity for their discussion, remains to be seen. But I know on the best authority that Sir William Harcourt is deeply interested in the whole subject, and it is probable he may be able to secure opportunities that are not possible to a private member. Mr. Roberts is showing a very keen interest in the whole question, and a considerable mastery of its intricate details; and, if he can get his chance, I have no doubt that he will make a speech that will have a considerable effect upon public opinion.

THE B. I. ASSOCIATION'S LETTER.

The *Times*' correspondent at Simla telegraphs half a column of comment on the letter addressed to the Bengal Government by the British Indian Association of Calcutta. It has fallen very flatly on the British public; and, as far as I can gather, only one journal of any position, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, has taken the smallest notice of it. The *Times*' correspondent, as usual with him, departs from the fine traditional practice of the foreign correspondents of the great journal, who are justly famous for their even impartiality, and brings out in emphasis the attacks made upon the Congress, which democratic institution seems to turn the worthy man's ink into gall, wormwood and vinegar every time he writes the word. He appears to support the egregious proposition of this body of rich landowners that such Associations as theirs should enjoy the privilege of recommending members for the Legislative Councils. But the Simla correspondent of the *Times* has long since lost any authority with the British public except as the mouth-piece of the narrowest and most bigoted section of the Civil Service.

THE LATE MR. GLADSTONE.

MR. GLADSTONE was once asked by Mr. W. T. Stead what was his greatest hope for the future. He replied: "I should say, we must look for our greatest hope to the maintenance of faith in the Invisible. That is the greatest hope of the future; for, it is the mainstay of civilization—and by that I mean a living faith in the personal God. After 60 years of public life, I hold more strongly than ever to this conviction, deepened and strengthened by long experience of the reality and nearness and personality of God." Such devotional sentiment speaks as eloquently to the genuine, earnest Christian, and is really the key to Mr. Gladstone's character and to his marvellous hold on the hearts of the people.

I suppose that on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, tens of thousands of people visited Hawarden, simply to look upon the closed coffin which held his dead body. On Wednesday it was removed to the church, and no estimate can be formed of the numbers composing the vast crowd that poured into the quiet, secluded village of Hawarden, by rail, carriage, cycle and on foot, from rural Wales and the great manufacturing districts of Lancashire, Yorkshire and the midland counties. At 5 o'clock in the evening, the stream of visitors came to an end, the immediate family assembled in the church, and a private religious service was conducted specially for them. Immediately afterwards, the funeral procession started for the Railway station, two miles off, the road being kept by volunteer corps and mounted police, a quite unnecessary precaution; for the tens of thousands of spectators who lined the route were most reverent and orderly in their demeanour. The special train got away about seven o'clock, stopping only at Chester, Crewe, Stafford and Rugby, where the stations were packed with vast congregations of people, satisfied with a passing glimpse of the van, containing the coffin, reaching London at half-an-hour after midnight. Until darkness fell, every town, village and hamlet within walking distance of the Railway poured out its inhabitants to see the train dash by at 40 miles an hour, just to feel that they too had done what they could, to show their love for Britain's greatest son. The train was taken by the underground Railway to Westminster Station, from whence, there is a sub-way into Palace Yard, upon which Westminster Hall abuts, where Mr. Gladstone was to lie in public state during Thursday and Friday, previous to the great final ceremony in Westminster Abbey on Saturday.

There could be no more fitting place for Britain's greatest statesman to receive the tribute of a mourning nation than this great, historic Hall at Westminster, the scene of so many of the most striking scenes in English history. This beautiful building was originally founded 900 years ago by William Rufus, but was rebuilt in its present form by Richard the Second 200 years after, and is, with the exception of the Tower of London, the oldest building in the metropolis. Within its walls, England's first Parliament of Lords Temporal and Spiritual, Knights of the shire and burgesses, summoned by Simon de Montfort, held its session beneath the pavement, at the upper end, is the ancient stone bench on which the King sat to administer justice, of which the "Court of Queen's Bench" is the present-day survival. Here were held the great State trials of history—William Wallace, Sir Thomas More, the Protector, Somerset, the Earl of Strafford and a brass plate in the floor still records the spot where Charles the first was sentenced to death by the free Parliament of a free people who had outworn an absolute monarchy and the superstition of the Divine right of kings. This ancient and noble hall, the largest in the world, unsupported by pillars, was prepared for the reception of Mr. Gladstone's coffin, and the lying-in-state, during the week. On Thursday and to-day, it has been open without restriction to the public, rich and poor, noble and simple, prince and peasant, all trooping through, together and without distinction, to pay the last tribute of respect and homage to the memory of the venerated statesman who has reached the very innermost heart and love of an entire nation. The Hall has been open each day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. As dawn broke on Thursday morning at 3 a.m., already a considerable number of people were gathering together to wait for the first opening of the gates, mostly poor working-men, whose bread has been cheapened, whose rents have been lessened, whose life has been brightened and eased by the life-long labours of the dead old man within, whose proudest title was that invented by the scorn of his opponents when they dubbed him "the people's William." As six o'clock approaches, the crowd has become a dense mass, solemn, quiet and orderly—and when the great gate opens, at the stroke of "Big Ben" in the clock tower of Parliament House, it streams through the great hall at the rate of six thousand an hour, never flagging until the gates are closed again

at six o'clock at night. The whole repeated once more on Friday with greater crowds, than even I went through twice, and watched the crowd pass for some time from the edge of the barrier. Entering at the great gate, and passing out at the top of the hall, in two great streams, passing on each side of the coffin, the dense crowd, in solemn and subdued demeanour, makes its reverence to England's greatest commoner, greater than any monarch. There is little to see. The coffin is plain, polished oak, placed on a simple pall of white embroidered silk. Four great lighted candles form a square about it, and a brass cross stands at the head of the coffin. No flowers or other decorations mar the air of simple solemnity and impressiveness that will be remembered through life by every one who experienced it. It was a wonderful testimony to the power and influence of a man, whose great genius and large loving heart was, during a longer life than the allotted time of man, devoted to the freedom, happiness and progress of humanity, without a trace of personal ambition, of self-seeking or any base or sordid motive.

To-morrow he will be laid to rest in England's proud Abbey of Westminster with all her most illustrious sons. Here lie the bones of Edward, the Confessor, and most of the Plantagenet Kings; of many of Mr. Gladstone's greatest predecessors in the political service of the Empire: John, Duke of Argyll; Lord Chatham, William Pitt, Beaconsfield, Peel, Canning, Grattan, Palmerston and Cobden, near by are the monuments of Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Milton, Dryden, Addison, Sheridan and Macaulay, men who like Mr. Gladstone, will be remembered and whose work will stand when the grand old Abbey has crumbled into dust. Not far off down another aisle is the grave of William Wilberforce, who won the freedom of the West India slaves, who perhaps gave more than any other influence the motive of Mr. Gladstone's deep and lasting interest on oppressed races, and whose illustrious grandson, Canon Basil Wilberforce, will take part in the funeral ceremony. Here close by are the graves of Lord Lawrence, Sir James Outram and Lord Clyde, and the tomb of the lion-hearted David Livingstone. Burial in the Abbey may well be reckoned our greatest national honour.

The funeral procession will gather to-morrow forenoon in Westminster Hall. The distance to the Abbey is but a few hundred yards, and every one will walk. The pall, bearers will be the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, Lord Salisbury, Mr. Balfour, the Duke of Rutland, Lord Rosebery, Lord Kimberley, Sir William Harcourt, Lord Rendel and Mr. Armshead, the two latter in the capacity of very intimate personal friends. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of London will attend in civic state; the Speaker will head the members of Parliament in his robes of office. In response to Mr. Gladstone's wish, that his funeral should be as little ostentatious as possible, no one will appear in uniform or court dress, but all will wear simple black mourning dress. I must, however, defer further detail till next week, when the great and solemn event will have gone into the past.

I am sure, I speak for all the friends in this country, of the Indian National Congress movement in expressing the hope that some token of the respect and esteem for Mr. Gladstone's memory from its leaders is already on the way. They cannot forget or ignore that he and his Cabinet voted five millions from the British consolidated fund to India, in relief of the cost of the Afghan War, that he had the courage, in spite of fierce opposition, to send Lord Ripon out as Viceroy, that he removed from the Statute Book the Act which deprived the Indian press of its liberty, and that to him the Indian people owe those local and district boards which contain the first principles of self-government—in fact, that his attitude towards India was the exact antipodes of that of the present Government.

SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A JOINT-MAGISTRATE.

STRONG REMARKS BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

At the High Court on Tuesday, before the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Banerjee, a case came on for hearing in which two influential Zemindars of Chaintpur, in the district of Sarun, against whom a case is pending before Mr. Lister, Sub-divisional Magistrate, made some serious allegations against the Magistrate and made those allegations as basis for a transfer of their case to the court of some other Magistrate. From the petition filed in the High Court, it appeared that on the 11th December last, on the complaint of one Hira Lal, some of the servants of the petitioners were hauled up before the Magistrate for having committed a riot and looted the property of the complainant. In the course of the riot a man was killed. Mr. Lister himself went to the village to make an enquiry. The Magistrate saw the first petitioner, Babu Rameswar Pershad Narain Singh and accosted him thus: "You are concealing yourself after killing a man." The petitioner replied that he did not kill any body. The Magistrate thereupon left the house; but shortly afterwards, from the house of the complainant, sent a constable and a number of Chowkidars to the petitioner with orders to bring him, immediately, and, in spite of his request to be allowed to go in a carriage, he was made to walk the whole distance, as the Magistrate's order was to bring him "paidal." On his arrival before the Magistrate, at about 11 A.M., he was immediately made, by the order of the Magistrate, to stand in the sun for about an hour and a half. He was next asked some questions by the Magistrate, but the answers were taken down by the Head Constable. A similar fate overtook the second petitioner, Baboo Brijnandan Pershad, who was made to stand in the sun for about three quarters of an hour only—a statement which was admitted as substantially correct by the Magistrate himself. It was also stated in the petition that on a subsequent occasion at Chaintpur, the Magistrate being informed that Mr. R. Ghose, barrister-at-law, had been engaged by the defence to watch the case on behalf of the petitioners, left the place at once and, meeting Mr. Ghose on the way, told him that he had no business to watch the proceeding at that stage. The Magistrate, however, denied the allegation. On the 15th of March, after the case against the petitioners' servants had been committed to the sessions, warrants were issued against the

petitioners to answer charges for culpable homicide, etc. Within two days a written proclamation, requiring the petitioners' presence before the Magistrate within thirty days, was published and he also ordered attachment of tents, shamanahs, elephants, palkis, carriages, horses, household furniture and other moveable property belonging to the petitioners by actual seizure. On the appearance of the first petitioner before the Magistrate he was released on heavy bail of two sureties for Rs. 5,000 each. The second petitioner was, however, not so fortunate. The Joint-Magistrate sent him to Sarun, a distance of 30 miles, in custody for applying for bail to the District Magistrate. Immediately on his arrival, after all the indignities he had suffered of being brought over so great a distance in custody, as Mr. Jackson, counsel for the petitioners, remarked, he was released on bail. Their case was then taken up by Mr. Lister, but before he had taken evidence the petitioners applied for an adjournment, under section 226 A, to move the High Court for a transfer. This application was not granted and the case was proceeded with. On the 10th May, however, the petitioners moved the High Court and obtained a rule, Babu Dasarathi Sanyal, vakil, who instructed counsel, Mr. P. L. Roy, to make the application, immediately telegraphed to the Muktear of the petitioners in Mr. Lister's court to inform him that the High Court had issued a rule and had ordered further proceedings to be stayed pending the hearing of the rule. On the 11th May the Muktear telegraphed to Calcutta that the Magistrate declined to see the telegram at all. Mr. Roy, who had obtained the rule had then to telegraph himself and on the 12th idem an application basing on the second telegram was made to the Magistrate for the postponement of the case, which he granted. The Magistrate's Court was at that time sitting in the morning from 6 o'clock to 11 o'clock; but on the 11th May after he had declined to see the first telegram, he held two courts, one as usual, in the morning and one in the afternoon (from 1 P.M. to 5-30 P.M.), and was thus able to examine eleven witnesses for the prosecution. On the 12th also before he had granted postponement, he managed to examine five witnesses and thus enabled the prosecution to nearly finish their case. This fact that almost all the witnesses for the prosecution had been examined was made most of by the Crown Counsel at the instance of the Magistrate to oppose a transfer, which means the opening of the case *de novo*. But this very fact that the Magistrate had shown an extraordinary amount of haste in finishing the case for the prosecution greatly influenced their Lordships' judgment. Over and above this and the point of law involved in the case, that a Magistrate who takes part in the preliminary investigation of a case is disqualified to try the same, apart from what Sir John Edge, late Chief Justice of Allahabad, who used to construe language in an altogether different way from the rest of the world, according to the Privy Councillors as Mr. Jackson pointed out, might say to the contrary, the statement submitted by the District Magistrate, explaining the reasons why the case should not be transferred, made up their Lordships' mind what course to adopt. The District Magistrate, among other things, said that in the subdivision where the offence was committed, the case should be dealt with to the terror of evil-doers; that the petitioners were members of an oppressive zemindar family, as stated in the Settlement Report, and that under all the circumstances the transfer of this case would weaken proper and right authority in this district and encourage evil-doers and be misunderstood by the people.

Mr. Jackson, who with Babu Dasarathi Sanyal appeared for the petitioners, submitted that the present case was a good instance in point in support of the contention that the two functions, judicial and executive, should be separated. What the Magistrate came to know as an executive officer he was using to influence the decision of a judicial officer. He formed an opinion of these men that they were oppressive zemindars, perhaps from some black marks placed against their names in some blue books by some of his predecessors, and these proceedings were taken with a view to degrade these oppressive men. It was a well-known fact that in the mofussil when a riot broke out on some lands, the Police generally implicated the proprietors of those lands, no matter whether they were cognizant of the riot or not. This was very often done, and Sir James Oliville, from his place in the Council, had borne testimony to that. The Magistrate by hurying up the case, had only shown his anxiety to see that the petitioners were committed for trial. Under the circumstances counsel hoped that his clients could not expect a fair and impartial trial at the hands of Mr. Lister or of the District Magistrate.

Their Lordships after consulting, said that they were disposed to transfer the case to the sudder.

Mr. Jackson: But my Lords they are all subordinate to the District Magistrate, and when the latter has formed a bad opinion of the petitioners, will it be safe to transfer the case to one of his subordinates?

The Chief Justice: I think his subordinates have judicial independence; them.

Mr. Jackson smiled, but did not say anything.

His Lordship the Chief Justice then delivered the order of the Court. He said, that in this case, the sudder justice required that the case should be answered to some other Magistrate. He did not propose in a case of this nature to go into facts in detail, but even allowing for exaggeration in the story told by the petitioners, his Lordship could not help arriving at the conclusion that the application of the petitioners had been dealt with in a somewhat arbitrary manner by the Magistrate. It seemed to his Lordship that there was at least slight bias on the part of the Magistrate against the petitioners and he had allowed that bias to outstrip that judicial impartiality which every Magistrate ought to exercise. It occurred to his Lordship that it would be a more prudent course for a Magistrate to adopt not try a case himself which he had himself investigated. Upon the facts as stated, where rule was applied for, his Lordship thought he could come to the conclusion that it was an injudicious act on the part of the Magistrate in forcing evidence in this case, which his attention was drawn to the fact that rule nisi was issued by this court for answer of the case to some other Magistrate. It appeared from

the affidavit that the Magistrate had at any rate an opportunity of learning from the telegram sent from Calcutta that this Court had issued a rule, and his Lordship thought it was absolutely wrong in going on with this matter when this Court had granted a rule. If he had any reason to believe that the telegram was a forged or a false one, he could ascertain that fact by adjourning the case for only a couple of days. His Lordship concluded: "The Magistrate ought to know that when once a rule is issued by this Court that they stay their hands, they should abide loyally by the orders of this Court." The case was accordingly transferred to the Joint-Magistrate of Sarun.

SALE OF OBSCENE BOOKS.

A VERY sensational case occurred on the 11th instant at the Bombay Police Court, before Mr. Sanders-Slater, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, when Mr. F. W. Gymer, manager of Messrs. Thacker and Co., booksellers, was charged by Superintendent Harry Brewin with selling certain obscene books and pictures, which are prohibited by section 292 of the Indian Penal Code. He was also charged with having in his possession obscene books and pictures for the purpose of sale. Mr. Brewin appeared in court and asked his Worship to cast a glance over certain books which he had with him at the time, stating that from the objectionable matter contained therein he based the above charges against Mr. Gymer. Mr. Brewin next handed over to his Worship certain other books, which he said contained indecent pictures. The accused was brought to court after his Worship had seen some of the books. He said that as regards to the latter charge he would first take a few of the books, viz. Beharistan, Gulestan, Cassanova, Monk, and others. All those books, he contended, were not obscene books. One of the books was prefaced by a member of the "Academic Francaise", and if the book was considered an obscene one, he would not have lent his name to it. Mr. Brewin thereupon said: "I seized over two hundred books, and certainly many of them are clearly indecent and come well within the law. Those that I find obscene and indecent, I will ask your Worship to destroy. The others, if any, may be returned to the accused. The book sold by the accused, as your Worship will observe, are grossly vile and indecent. Of this there can be no question. The prints are filthy, and I doubt whether even at Port Said you could procure any to exceed them in filthiness. Again, the accused for these five or six books, which probably cost but Rs. 10 or Rs. 12, has charged Rs. 375, so that his profits must be enormous."

The accused, then, picking up a book entitled "Perfumed Garden," said that the book had been placed in his shop for the purpose of being sold on commission. Though he did not consent at first to have the books in his shop he was pressed to do so and that this was the first occasion that they were shown to any body. The man who came to buy the books yesterday, represented himself as having come from some nobleman and asked for some of the books advertised for sale.

Mr. Brewin, producing a list, said that he had not yet in his possession all the books stated in the list and that it was necessary that all the books should be produced in court. The accused then said: "Could it not be arranged, your Worship, that all the books should be burnt and I should be permitted to go, giving an undertaking that no further sale of such books shall take place?"

His Worship: I can't accede to that.

Mr. Brewin: I must ask that the accused be directed to hand over to me the books, contained in a memorandum which he handed to the party whom I had sent into Thacker's shop to purchase the books produced. In my search at the shop I have not been able to find the whole of these books which the accused said he had yesterday and which I have not succeeded in tracing.

Accused: Mr. Brewin has had access to the whole of the shop and he has taken possession of all the books of this nature we had. If they are not all in the number he has taken away, they must have been disposed of.

The Magistrate: Mr. Brewin, when will you be able to decide which of the books you have taken possession of, are obscene or not?

Mr. Brewin: There are over two hundred volumes; and it will necessarily take me some time to go through them.

Accused: Oh! no, there are not two hundred. There are several copies of one work.

Mr. Brewin then stated that he would be in a position to proceed with the case on Saturday next.

The case was adjourned accordingly.

A VISIT TO THE MANIKTOLA HOSPITAL.

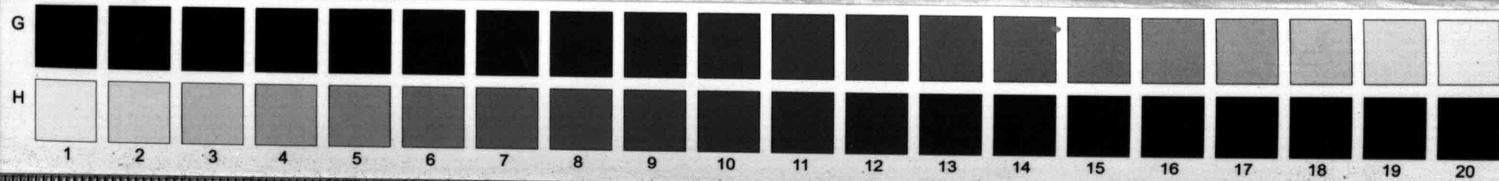
OUR special reporter visited the Maniktola Isolation and Segregation Hospital on Tuesday the 14th instant to make some inquiries about patients there. The following is his report:—

Shaik Nikram, the Small Cause Court peon, died on Saturday evening. A coolie of Jaumbazar Street, named Manwa, who was admitted in the hospital on the 27th April, was perfectly cured and got his discharge to-day.

At present several persons are lodged in the hospital, of whom only one, Kenneth, the son of Mr. Cross of Karachi, is a plague-patient, and he is improving. The other six are segregated as contacts. Of these latter, five are children of Mr. Cross, and one, a Hindu goldsmith, named Sarat Chandra Datta, of Newgypukur East Lane, who with his father, Mati Lal Datta, came voluntarily to the hospital for treatment. Mati Lal died of plague on Sunday and Sarat Chandra, though healthy, was segregated there as a contact. I asked Sarat about his food and treatment he receives from the officers and servants, and he said that he was pleased with both. I am told that it is very likely Dr. Cooke will order Sarat's discharge before he completes his ten days' term of segregation.

From 3rd to 8th instant some twelve gentlemen inspected the Hospital as visitors. Of these visitors I would mention the names of Dr. Russell, Dr. Charles, Babu Surath Chandra Bose, M. A. M. B., Babu Nirodh Behari Bose, M. B., Dr. Cooke, Babu Nagendranath Palit and Babu Nalin Behari Sarkar. One and all of these visitors were satisfied at the good arrangement of the Hospital. I can myself bear testimony to this fact that the officers are doing everything in their power to make the hospital popular.

SIR CHICHELE PLOWDEN, Resident of Hyderabad, will probably take leave in August, Mr. Crawford, Judicial Commissioner, Berar, will officiate for him.



GOOD NEWS FOR PRISONERS.

TREAD-MILL AND CRANK TO BE ABOLISHED.

The Grand Committee on Law resumed consideration of the Government Bill to amend the Prisons Acts. There was a large attendance, with Mr. A. O'Connor in the chair. At the previous meeting Mr. John Burns moved that no prisoner, obedient to discipline, should have a poorer diet than No. 3 in the present scale.

The Home Secretary (Sir M. Ridley), who had already admitted that No. 1 diet should practically be abolished as inadequate and that No. 2 should be considered with a view to improvement, now promised to take advice on the whole subject of gaol dietary. He would consult Dr. Small, chief medical inspector of prisons, another medical gentleman in the same service, and an independent person probably a member of Parliament.

The amendment was negatived by 28 votes to 10.

Mr. Davitt proposed that no prisoners should sleep on plank bed or be forbidden to talk at daily exercise during penal servitude after probation or during any period of confinement in a local gaol. These things, he maintained, were torture. For about nine months at Millbank his couch was covered with what was ironically called a mattress and yet he suffered from insomnia and found it terrible. No matter how degraded a man might be he would resent being treated as an animal. (Hear, hear.)

Sir M. Ridley replied that in connection with the new rules which he was framing for use under the Bill, he was considering whether the preliminary period, now 28 days, during which sleeping without a mattress was required, should not be reduced. (Hear, hear.) In the subsequent periods the unmattressed bed was occasional, but it would be abolished altogether (Hear, hear). Innocent talk about subjects such as work would not be forbidden among prisoners. He had already issued a circular to gaol governors telling them not to push the silent rule.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone was disposed to agree with the Home Secretary's regard to the plank bed, but he pointed out that conversation was already allowed among women prisoners, and evidence showed that it did a good deal of good. The Committee over which he had presided recommended that the privilege of talking should, after a certain time, be given to all long-service prisoners of good conduct in both local prisons and convict establishments. The Committee were unanimous on that point. The present system was inhuman and unless the Home Secretary gave a distinct assurance that it would be permanently modified, he (Mr. Gladstone) would vote for the amendment.

Sir H. Vincent thought the amendment would do definite harm.

Sir H. Fowler complained that the new rules would leave absolute discretion to prison authorities to make men sleep without mattresses. That meant torture, as starving prisoners was torture and depriving them of speech for fifteen or twenty years was torture. (Cheers.) Our whole prison system was most inhuman. In spite of what the Home Secretary had just said about relaxation of the silence rule, the modification of it still said that a governor should enforce the rule as far as the labour of the prison would permit. The bitter essence of the whole rule was thus practically preserved. (Hear, hear.) Unless the Home Secretary could say definitely on what principles the Bill was to be worked, he (Sir H. Fowler) would be inclined to move the adjournment of the Committee. (Oh, oh, and hear, hear.)

Mr. J. Redmond had slept for some weeks on a plank bed, and could assure the Committee that it was an instrument of torture.

Sir M. Ridley undertook to meet the points raised in the Committee by modified rules, which he would lay on the table of the House. (Cheers.) He did not expect the Committee to abandon their hold on the Bill till they had seen his new proposals. (Hear, hear.) He could not, however, present a new full dietary scale so early.

Mr. Asquith was satisfied with the Home Secretary's offer, but urged that the law which forbade communication between prisoners should be repealed, leaving no discretion to the officers. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Dillon testified that a night on a plank bed ruined a man as if he had been beaten.

The amendment was withdrawn in consequence of the Home Secretary's offer.

Mr. E. Fowler moved to abolish crank labour in gaol.

Mr. Davitt urged that the tread-mill should be done away with.

Sir M. Ridley announced that unproductive tread-wheel and crank labour was to be abolished. (Cheers.)

The amendment was, therefore, withdrawn. The Committee adjourned soon after.

THE Carthage, with the outward mails of the 4th instant, is expected to reach Bombay at 11 A.M. on Saturday.

THE weather in Madras continues very broken with frequent showers and distant thunderstorms.

THERE is every probability of Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Franklin succeeding Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Raye as Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Punjab, when the latter proceeds home on furlough.

DURING the month of April the cotton shipped from Bombay to foreign external and foreign Indian ports amounted to 38,795 khandis, the total value of the shipments being Rs. 59,28,968.

IT is well-known that epidemics of small-pox are of frequent occurrence in different parts of the Chital State. Hitherto the difficulty of keeping the disease under has been due to the inaccessibility to the Government officials of localities infected. A new departure has recently been taken by the Medical Officer at Chital, and a Chitali has, for some time past, been in training at the work of vaccination. The man is now a thoroughly competent operator, and he will be employed wherever his services are urgently required.

THE Honourable Mr. H. E. M. James, Commissioner in Sind, has obtained privilege leave for a fortnight. He delivered over charge to Mr. R. Giles, Collector of Karachi, who has been appointed to act as Commissioner in Sind, and Mr. J. P. Vaughan, I. C. S., Assistant Collector of Sehwan, acts as Collector of Karachi, vice Mr. Giles.

THE PLOT THICKENS IN CALCUTTA.

(Hindu.)

THE *Englishman* newspaper of Calcutta is persistent in its endeavours to establish a case of sedition against any Calcutta native journal, preferably the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. The *Times of India* played the same game in Bombay and succeeded; and its Calcutta contemporary is naturally ambitious to accomplish a similar feat in its own city. We said on Thursday last that the majority of English officials in this country are entirely dependent upon the Anglo-Indian Press for facts and opinions about the native public and their newspapers; and we are glad within two days since we wrote it we are supported by the *Englishman* which boasts, that "Europeans never see these native papers." It is not thus convenient for our contemporary to instruct the European residents in India of the vices foibles and seditious tendencies of their native fellow-subjects? And why not embrace this opportunity to make a name by accomplishing some sensational feat and discredit at least one newspaper and then generalise about the rest? This is the way the *Englishman* seems to have viewed the whole situation; and whether it will succeed or not will depend a great deal on the Government themselves. There seems, however, very little chance of Sir John Woodburn losing his head in the same way as Lord Sandhurst did; and a prosecution under the new sedition law may be expected soon to be followed by its repeal. The efforts of the *Englishman* are all the same noticeable; and in its issue of the 1st instant it does its level best to create among its European readers the strongest prejudice against the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. It has collected and put together a number of criticisms which are eminently just but which are at the same time calculated to engender the bitterest prejudice against their author. Having thus paved the way the *Englishman* evidently thinks that it can floor its native adversary even if it can take hold of a weak handle. We have been exceedingly amused at the number and character of the criticisms which our contemporary brings together to establish a case of sedition against its native neighbour. The *Patrika*, we are informed, has made "the most outrageous attacks upon the Plague officers and the Government;" it has found fault with Dr. Laing for shooting down two "natives," and it has persisted in criticising the failures of justice that take place when Europeans happen to kill natives. The *Englishman* calls all these seditious and puts them all in such a manner as to poison the minds of its readers against its opponent to the greatest possible extent. We need only refer to what Mr. Romesh Chander Dutt writes in the *Quarterly Review* about this and allied things to show how correctly he has summarised the main points of grievances, the expression of which is put down as sedition by the Anglo-Indian newspapers, and what little sense of proportion these latter show when they deal with the legitimate criticisms of their native political opponents. The *Englishman* picks out one sentence from the *Patrika*, that "the European is made to go through a sort of trial and then allowed to go scot-free," and then goes on to say: "Such a statement is not merely gross contempt of Court; it is an extremely seditious and dangerous utterance. And baleful remarks like these are not mere exceptional occurrences but are uttered day after day and week after week by the same journals." Our contemporary is right when it says that remarks of this sort are not called forth by exceptional occurrences; for murders of natives by European soldiers have become so common that it can hardly be said that they are exceptional occurrences; and the acquittal of prisoners charged with such crimes are equally common—in fact, they are the rule—that it is not on exceptional occasions that such criticisms are called forth. Mr. Alfred Webb wrote in the *British Friend* that not a single European charged with the murder of native Indians has ever been hanged; and not a native of India can gainsay what Mr. Webb writes. The particular criticism of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, which is quoted, was provoked by the fact that Mr. Justice Aikman of the Allahabad High Court expressed his approval of a paltry sentence of a fine of Rs. 200 upon a European who had killed a native. It is not so bad that these things should be said as that there should be cause for saying them. Has the *Englishman* ever said one word against the monstrous injustice that is perpetrated when Europeans are accused of the murder of natives. It has become such a scandal that many high-placed officials themselves apprehend danger from it; and every responsible Englishman in India knows that grave failures have frequently taken place in this respect. The *Englishman's* present tactics are by no means disinterested; and we have even a suspicion that the way in which the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* persists in demanding an enquiry against Dr. Laing for causing the death of two natives has something to do with the charge of sedition which the *Englishman* brings against its neighbour. The *Englishman* may be hoping, and perhaps may realise the hope, to divert public attention from Dr. Laing's act, by levelling darts at the *Patrika*, for the former includes it in the several items of indictment which it formulates against the latter. It asserts that in connection with the Bhowanipuri riots the *Patrika* has made "outrageous attacks upon the plague officers and upon the Government" and seems to insinuate that our contemporary has aggravated the offence by calling on the Government to put Dr. Laing on his trial before the Sessions. It is difficult at such a distance from the scene of the incident to say how far Dr. Laing was justified in using his revolver at the Bhowanipuri riot, and it never occurred to us that he might have used it without adequate provocation. But the depositions of Dr. Sarkar and the Police do not seem to bear out Dr. Laing's statements about the magnitude of the provocation, and we are glad the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is insisting on further enquiry. Both the persons on whom the shot took fatal effect were young people—one a boy of 17 and the other a mere child of 12. (Here follows Dr. Laing's and Dr. Sarkar's deposition already published in these columns.)

HORRIBLE INCIDENT IN THE BRITISH RAJ.

(Communicated.)

IN the village Sankarpur, under the jurisdiction of the Jessore Municipality and belonging to the Chanchra estate, the Mahomedan inhabitants have been enjoying the privilege of slaughtering cows every year without being interfered with by the local Rajas, for a period of more than one hundred years. Since the death of the Rajas of Chanchra, Raneer Probattee, a kind-hearted widow, has become the heiress of the one-third portion of the whole estate. The properties belonging to her, are just now under the management of her brother Lalit Babu, an inhabitant of Mandalgati, who is also in charge of the Kumars. This Lalit Babu is a man of turbulent character, holding a tyrannous sway over the lives and properties of the ryots and especially those who are Mahomedans. The Mahomedan inhabitants of Sankarpur, according to their old custom, slaughtered a cow this year also. But this act appears to be more than what Lalit Babu could tolerate. Consequently he had six of the Mahomedans forcibly taken before him by a number of his satan-like up-country *Bahadurs* and had them so severely beaten in his presence that one of them, named Bhangu Mollah, in a half-dead state, had afterwards to be sent to the hospital in a bullock-cart. He, after a treatment of twelve days, is now showing signs of returning life. The poor Mahomedan inhabitants of Sankarpur thereupon lodged a petition before the Magistrate who ordered a police enquiry in the matter. The police reported the case to be false. Every one knew that the police would submit an untrue report, the man entrusted with the enquiry being a *pukka* Hindu. However, another petition being submitted against the decision of the police, a fresh enquiry has been ordered. The day for the case was fixed to be the 6th of June, but Lalit Babu did not attend. Consequently, the date for the trial has been postponed till the 14th instant, and a warrant has been issued against Lalit Babu. Money is being showered to meet the expenses of the case; and most of those who might have given their evidence, have declined to do so for the dread that they have for Lalit Babu. The chief witness, Taher Mollah, who is a man of some wealth, has also been demoralized in a similar manner, being threatened that his house would be burnt to ashes if he presented himself in the Court. Owing to his non-attendance, a warrant has been issued against him also. Every influential pleader and mukhtar of Jessore is an adviser and a helping hand to Lalit Babu, whereas it would not be much to say that there is not even one in Jessore who would venture to speak a word on behalf of the poor Mahomedans. Munshi Abdul Hadi and Munshi Ujeer Ali are the only two mukhtars who are on the side of the Mahomedans. The only hopes of the Mahomedans are on *Khodatala* and the fair sense of justice of the English people. If the Mahomedans at Sankarpur fail to prove their case, that very day they will have to fly from their home and hearth for good with their wives and children. Alas, O English Government! how long would you continue to hear the instances of much dreadful oppression?—*Mithi-o-Sudhakar*.

A CHILD born on high seas takes the nationality of its parents.

THE cost of the battle-ship Maine was something over \$2,000,000.

THE title, Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the United States, belongs only to the President.

THE United States navy contains seventy-seven war vessels of all classes and are varying strength and capacity.

IN the United States the right of trial by jury is universal in all criminal cases. It may be waived in civil cases, by agreement on both sides.

THE primitive inhabitants of Cuba were a tribe of North American Indians, who, within a century after the discovery, were exterminated by the Spaniards.

THE Professor of physiology and vertebrate zoology at Cornell University declares that human beings have three eyes. He admits, however, that only two are useful, since the third eye, commonly called the pineal gland, hangs idly in the skull. He insists, however, that it is a true eye and was once used as such.

MR. FORBES and Colonel Sir George Moore have been gazetted Additional Members of the Madras Legislative Council.

WE are glad to announce that Babu Abinash Chunder Mitter, 1st Sub Judge of Hooghly, has been posted to Sealdah as Judge of the Small Cause Court.

IN the recent Jhimpir collision case the Assistant Station master and pointsman were sentenced to twelve and six months' rigorous imprisonment respectively.

ACCORDING to the Budget Statement presented by Sir James Westland in March last, the Secretary of State under the head of Permanent Debt intended to discharge India Debentures to the extent of 3,000,000 and Oudh and Rohilkhand Debenture Stock to the extent of 384,700, giving a total of 3,384,700. "For the discharge of this amount," he said, "I have generally supplemented my resources, he intends to raise Permanent Debt to the extent of 6,000,000." This would have given a net addition to the permanent sterling debt of 2,615,300. The resolution, however, which has just been sanctioned by the House of Commons, authorises a sterling loan not of six millions but of ten millions; so it would appear that the Government of India and the Secretary of State have changed their minds as to how the requirements of the current year, which are not charged to revenue, are to be met. Possibly it has been decided not to attempt to raise the 3-crore rupee loan which was announced in the March programme of the Government. Certainly there is no present prospect that such a loan could be put on the Indian market except at a heavy discount. On this supposition, after paying off India Debentures and Oudh and Rohilkhand Stock to the extent above mentioned, the Secretary of State will have, out of the ten million loan, 2,615,300 remaining; or, at the rate of 1s. 4d., Rs. 9,92,29,500. On the other hand, the total estimate for the current year of capital expenditure not charged to revenue is Rs. 5,74,91,000, to advance Rs. 1,37,46,000 to the Indian Midland and Bengal-Nagpur Railway Companies for expenditure on new extensions. This gives a total estimated expenditure of Rs. 7,12,39,000. It follows that the Secretary of State will have a balance in hand out of his ten-million loan amounting to Rs. 2,79,90,500 by way of a "reserve for emergencies."—*Pioneer*.

INDIA AND THE FAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, May 23.

INDIA AND THE GOLD STANDARD.—Mr. Cohen asked the Secretary for India whether the Indian Government had already taken decided steps for the establishment of a gold standard in India; and whether the assent of the Secretary of State in Council and of Parliament was necessary for the introduction of a loan in sterling in London for the establishment of such gold standard.

Lord G. Hamilton: No steps have been taken by the Government of India since the closing of the mints in 1893 to the free coinage of silver in the direction of the establishment of a gold standard. The assent of the Secretary of State in Council and of Parliament will be necessary as a prior condition to the issue of any loan in London for the purpose of establishing a gold standard in India. It is distinctly understood that any general borrowing powers which the Secretary of State may now possess, or which may hereafter be obtained for railway or other cognate purposes, will not be used for this purpose.

THE BURMO-CHINESE FRONTIER.—Mr. Curzon informed Mr. Drage that the Joint Commission for the delimitation of the Burmo-Chinese frontier in accordance with the agreement of 1897 commenced work in December last. Upon arrival at Lioiaien, in the second section south of the Taping river, a discrepancy between the Chinese and English versions of the agreement led to a difference of opinion between General Liu, the Chinese Commissioner, and Mr. Thirkell White, which involved references to Peking, and finally resulted in a postponement of the work for another season. The Chinese Government had been informed that the line would provisionally be regarded as that laid down in the British version of the agreement of 1897 and the map attached to it. Some local opposition on the part of the Kachins was met and overcome, and on March 25 he authorised the Government of India to take any steps considered expedient for the maintenance of their authority within the line of the agreement.

THE PORT OF NANNING.—Mr. G. Bowles asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether in view of the fact that Sir C. MacDonald on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 1898, demanded of the Chinese Government the opening of the port of Nanning, that on Jan. 25 he reported that the French Government had protested against the opening of that port, and that on Jan. 31 he again reported that the French Charge d'Affaires at Peking had spoken very violently to the Chinese Government against it, any further steps had been taken by Her Majesty's Government in the matter since Jan. 31; whether the French Government still maintained their opposition to the opening of Nanning; whether Her Majesty's Government had consequently withdrawn their demand for its opening; and when he expected to be able to lay upon the table the correspondence relating to the matter.

Mr. Curzon: I am unable at present to make any statement on the subject or to say whether papers can be published.

THE SALT DUTY ON THE INDIAN FRONTIER.—Mr. Herbert Lewis asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the duty on Kohat salt was 4 annas per maund up to 1883; whether in that year it was increased to 8 annas per maund; and whether in 1896 the duty was increased to 2 rs. per maund; whether this increase of duty upon one of the prime necessities of life was alleged by the Afghids to be one of the chief grievances which led to the Frontier War; and whether the Government will take the necessary steps to remedy this grievance.

Lord G. Hamilton said on Feb. 11 last he stated, in reply to a question, that the Kohat salt duty was raised in 1883 to 8 annas and recently to 32 annas per Kohat maund, which was equivalent to 26 annas per Indian maund for the reasons given in the correspondence. It appeared from that correspondence that, in the opinion of the Government of India, the increased duty was put forward by the Afghids as a pretext after they had already committed themselves to hostilities. The correspondence also showed that, as he had already twice stated, he proposed to await a report on the subject, which he would relieve when trade had been re-established for some little time.

NATIVE DOCTORS IN INDIA.—Sir W. Foster asked the Secretary of State for India whether he was aware that at present uneducated and unqualified persons had as much right to practise medicine in India as fully qualified practitioners; and whether, in view of the danger to which the Indian people were thereby exposed, he would consider the advisability of instituting a system of registration for medical practitioners similar to that which exists in Great Britain and Ireland.

Lord G. Hamilton: The answer to the first branch of the question is in the affirmative, and that to the second branch in the negative. It would be, in my judgment, impossible in the present condition of India to prevent the people of that country from resorting to native practitioners, even though they may be regarded by Europeans as not fully educated or qualified for the work they undertake.

NOTICES OF MOTION, &c.

Mr. Parker Smith and Mr. Herbert Roberts.—East India (Sedition and Control of the Press).—To call attention to the recent alterations in the Indian laws relating to sedition and the control of the Press; and to move a resolution. ("An early day.")

Mr. Samuel Smith (in going into Committee on East India Revenue Accounts).—To move: That, in view of the poverty of India, aggravated by plague, famine, and war, and the unsatisfactory state of its finances, a more economical administration is urgently needed, also a better system of raising the revenue and some aid for the country in regard to special expenditure on the North-West Frontier.

—The daughter-in-law of the Duke of Coburg, daughter of the King of the Belgians, who eloped from her husband, has, it is said, been placed in a private lunatic asylum.

—The largest newspaper presses, the first of their kind, have been built by Messrs. Hoe, for the proprietor of the New York *World*. Each of the machines will print, paste, cut, fold, and count 96,000 eight-page papers an hour, for 1,600 a minute.

—In Geneva a novel system for delivering letters in high apartment houses is to be tried. On the ground-floor is arranged a cabinet having as many compartments and boxes as there are floors in the house. When a letter is deposited in any box it makes a contact which rings a bell on the corresponding floor. The bell can only be stopped by the removal of the letter. The same current that rings the bell opens a valve connected with a water tank attached by cords and pulleys to the letter boxes and will serve to haul up the letter-box and its contents to the proper floor. When the box arrives, the letter is automatically dumped into a stationary receptacle, and at the same time the cylinder is discharged of its water. The letter-box then descends to the lower floor, the bell stops ringing, and it remains in position waiting for the next visit of the postman.

THE heat in Khyber has been very great during the last week.

SOMETHING LIKE A MIRACLE-WORKER.

THE MARVELS OF RAM PERSHAD.

Sir George Newnes publishes in the *Wide World Magazine*, the pages of which are dedicated to nothing but what is absolutely true, on the ground that "truth is stranger than fiction," a story which will severely tax the credulity of his readers. It is entitled "The Marvels of Feats of Ram Pershad the Juggler," by A. Sarathkumar Ghose. It is introduced by the following statement:—"Amazing and incredible as the following narrative may appear, it is nevertheless an absolutely true account of what both the writer and his party saw with their own eyes."

Ram Pershad, of Benares, is described as a juggler. The writer was in Calcutta with a party of friends when Ram Pershad was introduced to the Company, and proceeded to perform his marvels. After doing various ordinary juggling feats, he began his real marvels by boiling some rice in thirty seconds. The kettle was placed upon a mass of burning straw which was set on fire on the bare head of a boy without burning him in the least. That however was nothing to his next performance. Ram Pershad struck the wall with his handkerchief and caused a tiny silver tap to spring out of the bare surface. This, be it remembered happened in writer's own room where there could have been no prearrangement. Ram Pershad then asked each of the company to choose their drink and in rapid succession exquisite port wine, champagne, sherry, and claret issued from the top. An Irish man, however, insisted that nothing would satisfy him but Irish whisky and soda. No sooner said than done. An inch and half of Irish whisky streamed from the silver tap and then there spouted a clear stream of soda water.

Ram Pershad then asked them to sit in a crescent. One of the company had a rupee in his hand. He was asked to close his eyes and think of some distant country. He thought of Russia and lo! the rupee had changed into a rouble. The juggler never moved from his original position. The rouble was passed on to another, who mentally and silently thought of Austria. On opening his hand he found the rouble had changed into a gulden. So the coin passed from hand to hand, until at last, when it reached the hand of the Irishman, it was a Mexican silver dollar. This time the Irishman decided to trick the juggler, and when asked to open his hand there was nothing in it. He had slipped the coin up his sleeve. The juggler said nothing, but proceeded with the next experiment. This was a variation of the familiar mango tree marvel. The mango stone was buried in a pot of soil, which was brought in from the garden for the purpose. Half a tumblerful of water was poured on the pot, which was then covered in a sheet of cloth. Ram Pershad then began to play upon a musical instrument and the mango tree began to grow. It grew and grew until it had reached a height of two feet under the cloth. He snatched the cloth off, and there in the flower-pot was a beautiful little mango tree in full blossom and in the centre of the blossoms there lay an exquisite little mango, a rosy pink mango of Central Bengal. The Irishman was then asked to cut the fruit which had thus been miraculously produced. To his horror when he opened it he found within, not the mango stone which he expected but the identical Mexican silver dollar which he had slipped up his sleeve!

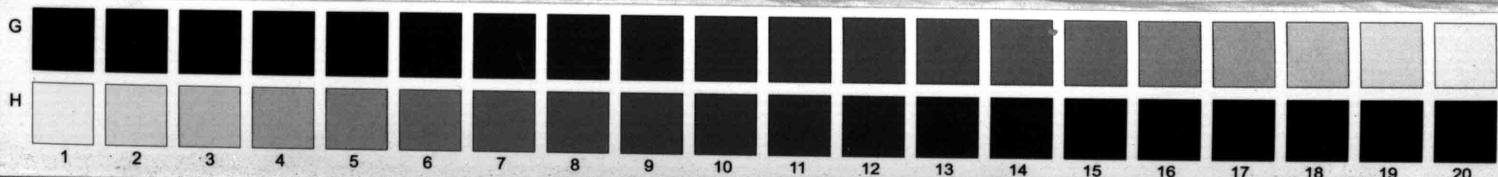
As the Ram Pershad stories are to be continued it is to be hoped that the editor will lessen the strain upon the credulity of the readers by producing some corroborative evidence that he has not discovered a new Munchausen.

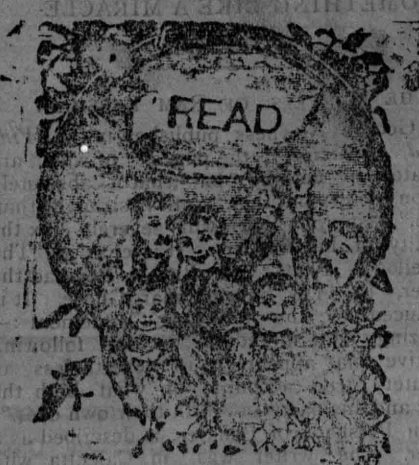
AN engine worked by compressed air can never be a prime motor in itself, since the air which propels it must be compressed by another power, either steam, electricity, falling water or animal force. In the construction of the Mount Ceniz tunnel, the hydraulic power of a cataract near the entrance was used as a prime motor to compress the air in reservoirs, whence it was conducted by flexible tubes to the rock-boring machines. It has not been found practicable as a propelling force for railway trains, although used in some instances in connection with street cars.

WALTER Wellman will start Tuesday on another expedition in an endeavour to reach the north pole. He hopes also to determine the fate of Andrea, who has not been heard from since two days after he stepped into his balloon. June 15 he is to meet at Tromsø, Norway, Lieutenant E. B. Baldwin of the United States weather bureau, Professor James H. Gore of the Columbia University, Quorof Harlan of the coast survey, and Dr. Edward Hofm of Grand Haven, Mich. The party will sail for the arctic regions June 20.

COMPRESSED air is used in the dynamite gun as a propelling force. It would be impossible to fire projectiles filled with dynamite from a gun charged with gunpowder without very great danger of premature explosion. Air guns are not new, but the mechanical arrangement for compressing the air, in the gun and discharging the piece is said to have been taken from an invention of B. T. Rablitt, the soap manufacturer, which was patented in 1878. D. M. Mefford of Toledo, Ohio, in 1883 first adapted the air gun to throwing dynamite, and Lieutenant Zaitzki and Captain Bartlett of the United States Army perfected the gun to meet the uses of naval warfare.

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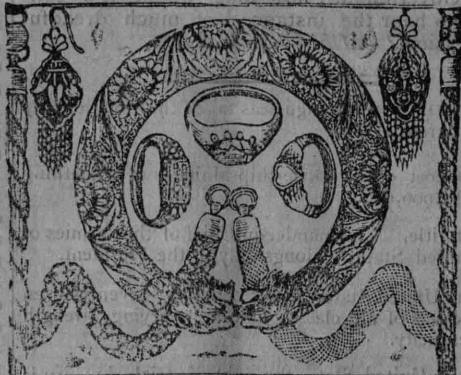
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